Geena's folly and | A guide through a \$100m turkey | A guide through the property maze | Buying shares | Bridget Jones's diary

Hollywood's biggest movie disaster

INSIDE TODAY'S NEW-LOOK SECTION TWO

Special Report

Under the volcano: An island waits in fear



Police launch breath-test crackdown

Automatic checks for all drivers

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The police are ready to launch a new clampdown on drinkdriving following fears that a hard core of motorists is continuing to go on the road while

Under new police proposals every motorist involved in a road accident, however minor, would undergo a compulsory breath test. The compulsory drink-driving initiative is expected to be given the go-ahead today at the Chief Constables' Council, the main

ratifying body of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo). Under the proposals any driver involved in a road accident at which a police officer attends or is asked to investigate will be breathalysed. Since 1992 all drivers in Britain are automatically breathalysed after accidents in which someone is injured. However, when no one is hurt it is up to the police officer's discretion whether drivers should be tested.

Police chiefs are concerned that the anti drink-driving campaign has stalled. In 1994, 678,500 people took breath tests in England and Wales - 13 per cent more than the previous year. There were 93,300 fused tests - up by about 4,000

¥.F

1

enter and

on 1993. Studies have identified that middle-aged men are particularly resistant to anti drinkdrive campaigns. A study in 1994 also found that 93 per cent of motorists convicted of drinking and driving had at least two offences, suggesting that the problem is confined to a small group of people.

The percentage of people found positive when tested has dramatically declined since 1984, when 42 per cent were found over the limit, but in re-

slowed. In 1990, it was 17 per cent, this dropped 1 per cent in 1991, rose to 17 per cent in 1992, dropped to 15 per cent the following year and reached 14 per cent in 1994.

David Williams, Chief Constable of Surrey and chairman of Acpo's Traffic Committee, is expected to say in a report at today's meeting: "There's concern that the downward trend in



drink-driving has reached athe hard core who are ignoring

One way of doing this, Mr Williams, is expected to suggest volved in a road accident will be breath-tested whether or not alcohol is suspected. At present a police officer can force a person to take a breath-test if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the person has been driving or attempting to drive with alcohol in their body, that he or she has committed a driving offence, or that they have been involved in an accident.

Some forces already test for alcohol after almost every accident, but others only use a breathalyser when someone has been hurt. Several forces are

cent years the decline has known to be unhappy about having compulsory tests because of the extra costs.

Helen Peggs, of Victim Support, said yesterday that the group had long campaigned for compulsory testing in cases involving death or injury. There's a strong feeling among bereaved families that many causes of road accidents are not adequately dealt with in court. Additional testing would also deter drink-driving," she said. In a separate development,

the police are also considering lowering the standard used to match fingerprints found at a crime scene with those of a suspect. A report for police chiefs has concluded that the current system, in which there must be 16 identical features between the prints, is arbitrary and allows many criminals to escape pros-

Instead they will be asked to consider replacing it with a similar system to the one used in Australia, in which the prosecution relies upon a qualified expert to determine whether two sets of prints match. This may be based on less than 16 plateau and there's a need to get identical features. Experts compare the unique joins and ridges of a person's finger print.

A Home Office spokeswoman said: "The 16-point systhe police are entitled to change their working practice." Duncan Lustig-Prean, deputy

director of Liberty, the civil

rights group, yesterday ex-

pressed grave concern about any change in which the standard of proof might be lowered. He the ground rules for subsesaid: "If the scientific standards quent all party talks. are lowered and the opinion of a so called expert is relied more upon this could lead to mistakes. The current 16-point system is considered fool-proof, it the quality of this is lowered the defence must be given a chance to challenge expert evidence."

Labour attacks Ulster policy

Labour last night made its first the Ulster Unionists who will inment's policy on Ulster, when the Commons over the coming Marjorie Mowlam, the party's months. Northern Ireland spokesperson, said it had made an "error of judgement" by not making public its detailed proposals for an elected peace forum and

Olveston, Montserrat, where volcanic ash shot five

miles high over the island on Monday night just

The criticism came as it launched an initiative designed to keep the peace process on track. Dr Mowlam called on the Government to make its plans public immediately, amid nationalist fears that the single seat majority it faces after tomor-

DONALD MACINTYRE

Political Editor

by-election could force the Tories to make concessions to

Mother and child look to the darkening skies of to government shelters and private homes at the

Dr Mowlam said that she was against any attempt to "enhance the role of the 110 member forum from which negotiators will be chosen. While John Major has explicitly promised that the forum will in no way turn into a Stormontstyle assembly, there are fears within the nationalist community that what will be inevitably be the unionist-dominated forum could be given excessive influence over the progress of all-

Government to publish its detailed proposals to allay such fears and she warned last night separate from the negotiations and make no contribution to the negotiations unless specifically asked to do so by the negotia-

northern end of the 33-square-mile British colony.

The Soufriere Hills volcano, which had been vir-

tors themselves". The initiative is significant because the Government is counting on Labour support when it brings forward the leg-islation for the Northern Ireland elections planned for 30 May-. Labour is not threatening to withhold its support for the Bill, but wants its views taken into account before the legis-

lation comes forward. Dr Mowiam, who also re-

Dr Mowlatn is pressing the leased for the first time detailed questions about the process which she put to sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Sec-April, Said: "Bipartisanship is more crucial than ever. With the Governty talks are expected. ment on a knife-edge we must

> process above party politics." In a separate move, Dr Mowlam is proposing a new independent body to examine the case - and possible routes for further marches in Northern Ireland in the wake of Monday's stand-off between

continue to put the peace

However, the RUC is pinning its hopes for a peaceful marching season on year-long, grassroots talks between nationalist and loyalist communities.

lovalists and the RUC in

Belfast. Such a body would not

have stautory force but would

be a source of independent ad-

vice on the handling of key

marches planned between now

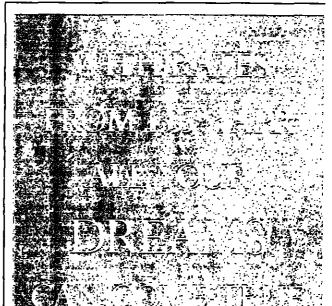
and the summer - when all-par-

ing a mixture of ash and hot gaseous rock. Britain

is sending two top seismologists to the Caribbean

island as fears of a massive volcanic eruption soar.

As police and politicians appealed for calm following Monday night's riots in Belfast, TURN TO PAGE 2



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Mortgage rate cut to lowest for 31 years

NIC CICUTTI and DIANE COYLE

Nationwide, the UK's secondlargest building society, yesterday fired a further round in the mortgage price war by slashing the cost of its home loans to 6.74 per cent, the lowest rate since January 1965

The reduction was immediately matched by Yorkshire Building Society, making the two societies the cheapest high street lenders in the market.

Nationwide and Yorkshire said the new rate, 0.25 per cent lower than before, would apply to both new and existing bor-rowers from 1 May. It brings down the monthly cost of a £60,000 endowment mortgage by almost £24.

Savings rates will also be cut by the same amount, but

of the first horse-meat shops to

open in Britain since the Sec-

ond World War. Page 3

High cost of shyness

Impotent men are paying £1,000

for treatment available for lit-

tle or no cost on the NHS, be-

cause they are too embarrassed

Nationwide insisted its rates would remain competitive.

Nationwide's and Yorkshire's initiative is part of a growing division between societies which are determined to remain mutual, while most of their rivals have announced plans to float on the stockmarket.

Brian Davies, Nationwide's chief executive, said: "Our latest move ensures that both our savers and borrowers will continue to have a real competitive advantage, demonstrating, once again, that you really are better off with a building society." Despite the Nationwide's

announcement, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, was yesterday urged by the Treasury's panel of independent forecasters, the six "wise persons", to be cautious about further reductions in the cost of borrowing.

The last time rates were this low...

■ The average house cost £3,820, and the average weekly wage was around £16. ■ The Rolling Stones had three No 1 singles while

Roger Moore and Patrick McGoohan were the highest paid British actors on £2,000 a week. ■ Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were charged with murder, and the death penalty was abolished

■ A two-week package holiday to the Costa del Sol would cost from £66 and to Greece from £93. British Rail published plans to cut the rail service in half, following the Beeching Report.

recent base rate cuts, two said there was a case for increasing them, if the Government was serious about its inflation target. Another three thought the next move in rates would not necessarily be downwards. of England, due on 8 May.

Although they welcomed Only one urged a reduction. Some City analysts argued the Chancellor could squeeze in another quarter-point cut to 5.75 per cent at the meeting between Mr Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank

terday they did not intend to cut their rates, which currently stand at about 7.25 per cent, at least £47 more a month on a £60,000 endowment mortgage than Nationwide. Abbey National said: "We

Most major lenders said ves-

have no intention to move. We have already responded to the [official] base rate cut [to 6 per cent] when it was made last month. Halifax, Woolwich, Barclays

Bank and Alliance & Leicester also said they had no plans at present to follow suit. Cheltenham & Gloucester,

which was taken over by Lloyds Bank last year, will not cut the cost of its home loans below the 6.95 per cent it intends charging its 600,000 borrowers from 1 June, unless other major lenders do so first.

Nationwide's decision was hailed by experts as a further underpinning of the housing market's fragile recovery. Don Smith, UK economist at HSBC Midland, said it

"underlines the depth of competition there is in the mortgage market, and that can only be good for the housing market". A new survey by TSB showed the cost of buying a home is the lowest for 18 years. A typical buyer now pays £25.70 towards a mortgage out of every £100 of

take-home pay. Last summer, the amount was more than £30. In February, Nationwide launched its first strike in the price war between the soci-

eties, when it gave its 7 million members members £200m in annual profits.

Woolwich row, page 15

Ontput sluggish, page 15

one reason why Chikatilo was

Rostov - the public was left in

ignorance and the police were

Troops hunt 'world's worst serial killer' IN BRIEF Galloping success The BSE scare meant that trade the Ukrainian CID, said the families. "He breaks into hous- has not sexually assaulted any reported crime news from the was booming yesterday at one

HELEN WOMACK

Troops have been rushed to a try to foil a serial murderer who has killed 40 out of the 1,500 vil-

lagers in three months. Whole families in Bratkovichi, a hamlet near the Polish border, have been slaughtered by the killer who the authorities are now trying to stop with a division of national guards.

crime spree in history."

Andrei Chikatilo, the Rostov Ripper executed in 1994, had previously held that title with 52 vichi" has only been active since December.

The death toll is so high beareas. Section two, page 29 Alexander Yevashchenko, of cause the killer targets entire

murders were believed to be the es early in the morning, shoots of his victims and police are puz- West. This lack of Glasnost was work of one man. "It is the all the inhabitants, including the worst killer the Ukraine has ever children, and then sets the small village in the Ukraine to seen and may be the worst house on fire," said Insp Yevashchenko.

The killer first struck on 30 December when he murdered a family of four in their beds and child victims murdered over 17 then killed a passer-by who evyears. The "Beast of Bratko-idently saw him fleeing. In his the former Soviet Union, was latest attack he shot another family of four - a man, his wife, their daughter and the wife's disabled sister. The murderer munist-controlled press only

zled as to his motive. Over 100 investigators are able to kill for so long around

working on the case and troops the southern Russian city of have been sent in to calm the population. In addition, street lights and telephones have been installed in the hamlet which, like most rural settlements in scarcely living in the 20th century until the killings started. In Soviet times, the Com-

unable to appeal for witnesses.



to see their GPs.

Today's weather

Sunshine and showers in most

harry and

Section BUSINESS 15-19 COMMENT 12,13 CROSSWORD 24 GAZETTE 14 LEADING ARTICLES 12 LETTERS 12 NEWS ANALYSIS 11 OBITUARIES 14 SHARES 18 SPORT 21-24 UNIT TRUSTS 19

section

ARTS 6.7 BRIDGET JONES 5 CHESS 27 CROSSWORD 30 FINANCE 19 LAW 23.24 LISTINGS 28.29 MONEY 13-15 RADIO 31 TELEVISION 32 THEATRE 8,9 WEATHER 29

iday. Meanwhile the Dunblane inquiry chaired by the leading Scottish judge Lord Culten will hold a preliminary hearing in Stirling on 1 May.
This will deal with procedural issues ahead of the full inquiry, which is likely to start in late May or early June and last about four weeks.

Police chief retires

Sir Ron Hadfield, 56, is to retire in July as Chief Constable of the West Midlands. Sir Ron was appointed to the post in 1990 after the area's controversial Serious Crime Squad had been disbanded in disgrace. He quickly initiated a major restructuring of the force, which is the second largest in England

Exodus from pews

Congregations in Wales are dwindling by four per cent a year, according to a church survey. The number of young orshippers has fallen from 27 per cent of children to six per cent in 14 years. But Wales still has a church for every 600 people - double that found in England and Scotland.

Baby found dead

Children playing on wasteland behind a community centre found the body of a newborn baby boy. Police in Dudley, West Midlands, said they believed the body of the full-term white baby boy may bave been lying in undergrowth for at least 24 hours. They are anxions to contact his mother.

Benefit strike vote

Benefits Agency staff in five London offices have voted for a five-day strike from next Monday over work on the planned Job Seekers Allowance. Some work on the JSA is expected to be carried out in Job Centres without security screens, which unions say puts staff at the risk

Phone-in offensive

Piccadilly Gold radio station in Manchester was fined £1,000 over remarks about the Pope in a late night phone-in. The live discussion last December about sexual matters offended good taste and decency and also abused Catholic sensitivities the Radio Authority ruled.

Profits climbing

Hillwalking and mountaineering earn up to £110m a year for businesses in the Scottish highlands and have created nearly 4.000 new jobs, according to a report commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. More than 500,000 people took to the Scottish hills last year one per cent of the UK's adult population.

Ex-editor dies

Peter Hollinson, the former editor of Wales On Sunday, has died after a long battle with cancer. He joined the newspaper as assistant editor when the title was launched in 1989 and was appointed editor in 1991, Mr Hollinson was 50 and married with two daughters.

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'Street' cruises for fall over video's brief honeymoon

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The makers of the ITV soap opera Coronation Street could face heavy fines for showing the honeymoon of two of its biggest stars on television - after promoting it as exclusively for sale

The Independent Television Commission has launched an investigation after it received complaints from 70 viewers about Granada's decision to screen the 75-minute special on

the honeymoon of characters Raquel and Curly on ITV after it had promoted it as exclusive to video for £13.99. Granada has also received letters from several hundreds of viewers at its Manchester studios demanding an explanation.

Some 750,000 people bought Coronation Street - the Cruise on video, making Granada an es-timated £10m. But many say they only did so because they were led to believe it would never be shown on television.

after it went on sale in December a shortened version was shown on ITV on 24 March.

More than 16 million viewers watched Raquel and Curly's antics as they joined a luxury cruise only to discover that they had no tickets and could not even share a bedroom. Three other Coronation

Street stars also featured in the special: Alex Gilroy, Mavis Ŵilton and Rita Sullivan. Yesterday an ITC spokes-woman said that following

bought the video on the undenstanding that it was exclusive to video and then a version was shown on TV," she said. "We have asked Granada for an explanation and we are awaiting

it would be on the nation's

television screens last month

they had been inundated with

omplaints. "We've had around 70 com-

plaints from viewers who

their response. What viewers perceive as the cruise "con" has been worsened by ITV claims that Granada had known all along it would be shown on television but cold-bloodedly gave the opposite impression to maxi profits. One source said: "This is the consequence of their drive to push up profits. They are

getting greedy."

A Granada spokesman admitted that it had always planned to put the honeymoon episode on television, and had deliberately removed the pre-printed sticker saying "Only on video" after the television

misled. "It's grossly misleading to extrapolate from the 70 com-plaints the ITC claims to have received as being representative of the three quarters of a million people who bought and ea-

viewers to see the honeymoon Street, in Blackpool.

Initially it was made avail-

joyed the video," he warned. able exclusively on video and we had an agreement with ITV to make a version available to them once a suitable period had elapsed. The video enabled

But he denied that buyers of immediately following the the extended episode had been episode showing the wedding." The row on the 35th anniversary of Britain's best-loved soap opera reflects Granada's increasingly commercial approach to TTV's "jewel in the

Last month it announced a £10m sponsorship deal with Cadbury's for the show and it also offers lucrative studio tours, books and a magazine linked to the programme and even the World of Coronation

In fact less than four months Granada's announcement that **BBC Arabic TV** closure revives censorship fears

MATHEW HORSMAN

The BBC was last night accused of a "sneering and racist attack on Islamic law and culture" as a bitter row erupted over the cancellation of the corporation's Arabic language television

The row looked certain to revive concerns about the BBC's relationships with outside broadcasters in the developing world, which many believe lead inevitably to threats of censorship.

Orbit, owned by the Mawarid Group of Saudi Arabia, which had been providing the service to its subscribers in the Middle East, north Africa and Europe, said it had "unilaterally terminated" its contract with the BBC, following what it claimed were "many attempts to persuade the BBC to be more

The BBC stood by its statement made on Monday that both parties "had given notice of their intention" to terminate the service, and that the two were seeking an agreed settlement of "outstanding matters". These were believed to include financial arrangements.

A spokesman added last night: "The BBC does not propose to discuss the legal issues whilst negotiations are taking

ceedings are pending."
The controversial 10-year contract, worth about £10m a year to the BBC, was fully financed by Orbit, although the service was produced by the BBC out of its studios in Lon-

don, involving 250 staff. The BBC said yesterday it would endeavour to find other jobs for the employees, but conceded that would be difficult given the "specialised" skills of the staff involved.

The confidential contract. signed two years ago, gave the BBC editorial control, Orbit said, but only provided cultural sensitivities" were observed. Orbit claimed that the BBC had promised to edit the programme prior to transmission. This it did not do," Orbit said in its statement.

The BBC said it was "satisfied that it has complied fully with all the terms of its contract, including its obligations as to local sensitivities.

The BBC transmission on 4 April of a Panorama programme entitled "Death of a Principle" which was highly critical of Saudi Arabia's human rights record, led to the decision to terminate, Alexander Zilo, Orbit's president, said yesterday. Commenting on the Panorama programme, the company said the producers had "as-

sembled isolated incidents and

Move to halt

lottery child

felons, to allege improprieties in the application of Islamic law. The tabloid and sensationalist representation triggered outrage in the Islamic communities of Europe, the Middle East and

Northern Africa." The BBC's arrangements with Orbit were unlike those it has established with other broadcasters, a BBC spokesman said. Generally, BBC Worldwide, the corporation's commercial arm, has packaged its news, entertainment and current affairs programming for broadcast outside the UK, in cooperation with private sector

In the case of the Arabic service, the BBC produced original programming for a single

client, supplementing this with programmes such as Panorama. The BBC's use of outside broadcasters has already generated instances of censorship in overseas markets, critics allege. In Bahrain, last week's Panorama programme was twice scheduled to run on the state-owned main network, but was blacked out both times and replaced by announcements that there had been tech-

nical difficulties. Star TV, controlled by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, bowed to pressure from the Chinese government and removed the BBC World Service from its

Loonylugs candidate on wrong side of the law



Tony Samuelson, 66, a Daily Loonylugs Party candidate at the Staffordshire South East by election, is arrested by police after scuffies broke out during a visit to Tamworth by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary. He had earlier

Blair says by-election defeat Labour in may force Major to the polls

COLIN BROWN

An early general election could be forced on John Major by a Tory defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election tomorrow, the Labour leader, Tony Blair, said last night as his party prepared for a resound-

ng victory.
The loss of the Conservative seat would reduce Mr Major's majority in the Commons to one. This would make it more difficult for the Prime Minister to stay in office until a general election in May next year at the end of the Government's full five-year term, Mr Blair told a by-election meeting in Tam-

Previous by-election losses have been wiped out by the Tories at subsequent general elections. But both sides see the Staffordshire South East result as a key indicator.

rified of losing this seat. If we win here, they will not be able to dismiss defeat as mid-term blues or a protest vote.

"They know that if we win here, it will be the clearest sign yet that we are back as the party of the mainstream majority; that people are not just voting against the Government, but voting for an opposition that is credible, realistic and can give this country the fresh start it is crying out for."

One clear message emerging for Mr Major is that he should carry out a summer reshuffle of his Cabinet team, albeit reluctantly. Conservative "focus" group polling in Tamworth has shown that voters regard the Government as "tired"

Two ministers, David Curry and David Maclean, are tipped for promotion to the Cabinet and there has been speculation that the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, who has seen the polling results, wants Mr Major to drop Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary,

who was campaigning in Tamworth yesterday.

The Tories believe the by-

election result could mark a turning point in their fortunes. Privately, they are already admitting defeat, in spite of the upbeat remarks last week in the seat by Kenneth Clarke. the Chancellor. He predicted that Jimmy James, the Tory candidate, would be the first recipient of the "feelgood factor".

But private polling has given the Tories hope that the disenchanted voters can be won back. "The venom has gone. There has been a real change of mood," said one senior party campaign source.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine - the fifteenth cabinet minister to campaign for the seat - last night appealed directly to wavering

lory voters to return to the fold. The Tories also claim their polling, from a sample of voters in Tamworth, showed deep scepticism and the threat of a backlash against Mr Blair. ingdon constituency.

"They say that he won't last very long after the election, that the Left will stick the knife in his back if they get in office." said the campaign source.
But the Tory sample polling

also also shows that Mr Major is highly vulnerable to the charge of betrayal by former voters for tax increases since

Mr Blair last night scoffed at Tory briefing which claimed that a defeat by 5,000 votes would be a good result in a seat where they are defending a majority of 7,192 following the death of Sir David Light-

The opposition leader stressed the importance Labour places on winning the seat by cutting short a family holiday in Spain to hold the ticket-only meeting in Tamworth before flying to Washington today for a visit which will include talks with President Clinton.

Mr Major has been spending the Easter break in his Hunt-

Thief, 12, clubs man with iron bar

A 61-year-old man was recovering in hospital last night being clubbed over the head with an iron bar by a 12-year-Labour would prefer the

Bob Williams, of Wombwell, Barnsley in South Yorkshire, was attacked after hearing noises in his garden on Saturday. He went outside to discover two

was hit over the head with an iron bar by the 12-year-old, who was just 4ft 10in tall. The two boys, who had picked up the weapon in the garden, then

pital.

Sergeant Steve Boulton, of Wombwell police, said yesterday: "It's disgusting that children as young as 12 can commit these types of offences. Particularly when you bear in mind

Mr Williams suffered a severe the fact that two elderly men

far more serious and this young

lad could have been facing a murder charge." Detectives were hoping to take a fuller statement from hope Mr Williams yesterday.

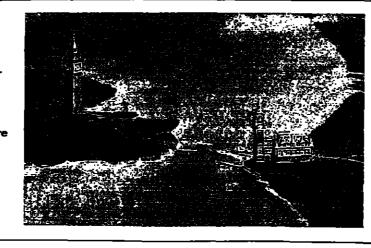
have died this weekend after similar attacks. This could obviously been

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Ulster calm returns

small groups of people from both sides of the divide have been trying to avert trouble by reaching compromises over the routes and frequencies of the With more than 2,500 pa-

rades due to take place by the

that the community negotiations will reach settlements acceptable by both sides.

Monday, negotiations at local level have been taking place aimed at finding some compromises. We are not initiating

routes along which tension was

was averted by talks between a nationalist residents' organisation and loyalist marchers who negotiated a reduction in the number of parades from 12 to

cheap help t draw custor

ticket sales Crime Correspondent Children are illegally buying lot-

responsible for policing the crime, it emerged yesterday. A new investigation and prosecution policy is being drawn up by the Home Office, the police, trading standards, and Camelot, the National Lottery operator, in a attempt to solve the problem.

tery tickets and scratchcards

without fear of being caught be-

cause of confusion over who is

refusal to use their resources on staking out shops or checking youngsters for buying tickets un-der the legal limit of 16. Any retailer who knowingly sells a ticket to a under-age player faces a £5,000 fine or up to two years in jail. The Chief Constable's Coun-

The move follows the police's

cil, the main ratifying body of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), is expected to agreed to a three point holding an today until a new policy can The council is likely to agree

that the police will not actively

attempt to catch under aged of-

fenders but any offences that are

reported to them will be passed

on to Camelot who will decide

what action should be taken

against the retailer. The police will continue to deal with the more serious crimes such as fraud, theft and deception. An ACPO spokesman said:

discussing a prosecution policy."

The problem of under aged oungsters was highlighted in November when a 15-year-old bought a winning scratchcard. Camelot is taking Prudence Beech to court over the £10,000 her son, Clayton, from Scholar Green, Cheshire, won.

There seems to be an assumption by the Department of National Heritage that it was up to the police to refer cases of newsagents selling tickets to under aged kids to the Crown Prosecution Service. We believe it should be up be up to local authority trading standard officers. We are currently

may not buy Instants for adults. The CPS decided not to take any criminal action after his mother collected his winnings. A spokeswoman for the heritage department said: "Trading standards and the police have to take forward prosecutions of retailers that sell tickets to people under aged. There seems to be some confusion from both sides and attempts are being made to clarify the rules."

The company wants the High Court to establish that children

move to sweeten Murdoch

COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent Overtures to Rupert Murdoch are expected to be made next week by Labour with a move to a more free market approach to cross-media ownership.

The Labour front-bench trade and industry team is preparing to abandon its support for a tough regulatory regime on the ownership of newspapers and television broadcasting in favour of a freer market overseen by the

Monopolies & Mergers Commission with tougher powers. The commission, under Labour, would be expected as a result to approve more investments by newspapers and

cross-media ownership. newspaper groups with more than 20 per cent of the national market taking over independent television companies.

threshold to be 25 per cent. Se-

nior Labour sources said last

night that this would benefit the Mirror Group, part owners of

the Independent.

broadcasting companies in The first step will come next week in the Commons with the Second Reading of the Broad-casting Bill in which the Government is proposing to stop

Mr Blair said: "A Labour win will show their are no no-go areas for New Labour. The Tories know this. They are ter-

boys, aged about 12 and 15, coming out of his garden shed. Mr Williams, who is retired, tried to catch the older boy but

head injury and was taken to Barnsley District General Hos-

end of the year, the potential for trouble is great. However, one RUC officer said yesterday: "We are hoping

"Behind the scenes, and in spite of all the shouting since just two.

these talks, but we have been invited by the communities to attend. Last year, the nationalist Ormeau Road was one of the

greatest.

However, serious violence

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B. Burney

Meat market: Consumers break British taboo over eating much-loved animals as beef crisis is prolonged by policy delays

Cheap cuts help horse draw in customers

REBECCA FOWLER

The customers were hesitant. and certainly did not wish to know the former name of their prospective dinners. But trade prospective dinners. But trade was booming yesterday at one of the first horse meat shops to bought 3lb of horsemeat for open in Britain since the war.

A steady flow of shoppers stopped at Cheval Butchers in Smethwick in West Midlands yesterday, where cuts of horse meat were on sale from 20 to 80p a pound. "Can you afford

to miss it?" the sign read. Bob Walker, 47, the owner, who worked in horse slaughtering for 30 years, is delighted by the initial response. He believes the horse's day has come, in the light of cheaper prices and the beef scare.

His counter was filled with one quarter of a hunting horse. The animal, which he refused to name, was shot after it broke its leg. It weighed 1,060lb and

will provide one week's sales.

Mr Walker said: 'I didn't
think it would go this well, and I was expecting to see animal rights protesters this morning, but there weren't any. If it carries on like this I'll be very

happy. The meat, which is similar to beef, but tougher and sweeter, is popular on the Continent. The cheaper cuts are popular with greyhound and pet owners, according to Mr Walker, who expects trade from them.

British British

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But locals from around Smethwick are also keen to experiment. One nervous customer peered at the counter of dark red meat: "Ooh, I don't thusiastic. know, I just don't know," said Laurie Čox, 65, a housewife.

Mrs Cox eventually bought a pound of steak at a bargain price of 50p which she intendcd to slow roast. "I just want to try it, and if I like it I'll be back." Other customers who had al- tle piggy?"

ready eaten horse meat abroad said they were not squeamish about eating an animal tradi-tionally held in such high af-fection by the British.

£3.50, which he said he would try frying. "The English attitude to horses is that they're for sitting on and playing with, but I don't like them very much," he

"I've eaten horse meat many times abroad, in France, Spain, Russia, Mongolia. I've never liked beef because of the feeding practices, but I'm not aware

they're giving horses to horses."
Mr Walker is confident his meat supply will not run out. He used to charge £70 for taking dead animals to the knacker's yard. But in return for a vet's certificate that confirms the horse is fit for consumption, he will now remove it for £30 or even free, to sell the meat.

As customers continued to inspect his counter in the redbrick Tollgate market, Mr Walkrants, and one chef bought £10 worth of horse's meat yesterday.

But for most customers the biggest attraction was the low price. The Ryder family had travelled 20 miles from Nuneaton yesterday to buy a sample of horse meat.

Rob Ryder, 39, a glass fibre manufacturer, said his wife Pauline, 39, had been reluctant, but their son David, 12, was en-

Mr Ryder said: "If it moves we'll eat it. We've tried it abroad and it's a bit adventurous cooking it at home. You're either a vegetarian or you're not. How many people cating a pork chop think about the poor lit-



Horse trading: A prospective customer at Cheval Butchers in Smethwick, West Midlands Photograph: Peter Macdiannid

Take a sprig of parsley: How to cook horse rearried parallely and youth. I Chop whys and trick in oil. I Chair legislates - his aid tender, Co

Assistance of notice with creaming parallel parallel position.

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Farmers cull herds they cannot afford

ROS WYNNE-JONES and CHARLES ARTHUR

The BSE crisis is forcing some farmers to cull their own herds because they cannot afford to keep feeding older cows while the Government organises widespread destruction and

compensation programmes.

Meanwhile, British attempts
to lift the global ban on British beef look certain to be rejected today when European veterinary experts meet in Brussels to assess the continuing crisis.

The culling of older cows began last week, after the sale of cows and beef cattle older than 30 months for beef was out-lawed. This has left farmers who previously sold dairy cattle past milk-production as cheap beef with the cost of keeping the animals. On average, it costs £30 to feed one dairy cow for a

"I know of several dairy farmers who have been forced to have their cows shot, but it will spread across the country, said Philip Stephens, chairman of the National Farmers' Union Cornwall branch. "The Government has outlawed cow beef, but the instruments for the slaughter of these cows are not in place and there is no guarantee of compensation. What are farmers meant to do when it is costing them so much to feed them?

The cows, also known as cull cattle, fetched about £200 before the British beef scare, but were now virtually worthless, he

A spokesman for the NFU's South-west region said the union had not heard of farmers shooting their own herds. The regional office, in Exeter, had been receiving up to 400 calls per day, however, many from

anxious dairy farmers. Callers had been asking what to do with their herds, because they were unable to get rid of them, the spokesman said. Cull cattle had never formed a large part of a dairy farmer's income, but the loss of £200 per chances of this happening were cow might tip some farmers

over the edge. "No-one seems to be giving them any answers. least of all the politicians." Beef farmers with older cat-

tle have also been feeling the effects of the BSE scare. Norman Morish, a beeffarmer from Cheriton Bishop, Devon, said he had 25 prime beef cattle which would have been worth about £24,000, but now they could not be sold because they were more than 30 months old. "We do not know what is going to happen. But we

have got to hold on to them and

feed them, and hope some-

thing comes up at the end of the day," Mr Morish said. Meanwhile, the pressure group Friends of the Earth claimed that water supplies for Norwich might be contaminated by material leaching from the headless carcasses of 100 BSEinfected cattle buried at a landfill site. The site is roughly half a mile from the River Wensum, which is used to supply water to

the city. But Anglian Water and the Environment Agency, which is responsible for water quality, insisted yesterday that there is no leaching from the site. "We have boreholes which are checked at least once a month," said an Environment Agency spokeswoman.

The EU's standing veterinary committee, which meets in Brussels today, may decide to a slight relaxation of the ban on British beef by agreeing to re-move certain beef-related products, such a gelatine, from the scope of the order, according to officials.

The meeting has been called by the European Commission, which agreed to review the terms of the ban, which it imposed on British beef and all beef-related products on March 27. However, sources in the Commission said it was far too early to consider any lifting of the order. Although Keith Mcldrum, Britain's chief veterinary officer, may call again for the end of the blockade, the "zero", said one official.

Impotent pay £1,000 for £9.95 cure

GLENDA COOPER

Impotent men are paying more than £1,000 for treatment that could be available for little or no cost on the National Health Service, because they are too embarrassed to see their GPs, it was claimed yesterday.

Vulnerable men — many of whom keep their erection problems from their partners are falling victim to slick salesmen from private clinics and are paying vastly inflated prices, according to a report in Health Which? magazine.

The five London clinics investigated charged between £360 and £1,300 for treatment. with one claiming to use the most "advanced substance" to bring about a natural erection.

In fact, the substance used is alprostadil sold as Caverject, which is a standard treatment used by most clinics and costs the NHS about £9.95 per injection. Impotence treatment is avail-



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Sales pitch: Adverts tempt men to seek private treatment

able free on the NHS but there is the price of a prescription. are relatively few NHS impotence clinics. Sufferers should get their GP to identify the cause of their problem, whether physical or psychological.

If the doctor feels it is treatable by injection, the patient should ask for an appointment with the urology department at his local hospital which will work out the dosage needed and show the patient how to inject himself. After that the injection

Mr Ashton said it was "ludicrous" that sufferers could pay £1,300 for a treatment that

could be administered at home for the price of a prescription. However, Clive Gingell, consultant urologist at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, warned that there could be a wait of up to

have been overcharged, he added, most are too embar-

rassed to complain.

a year for NHS treatment. "Waiting times are such a common problem that many people choose to go private," he The deputy editor of the Consaid. "People are aware of the sumers' Association's Health treatment options and may feel Which?, Robert Ashton, said: the waiting times are too long. "This is an incredibly sensitive And not all urology departments subject and men want to keep it can provide this service ... small private. Often they will see addepartments do not have the

manpower to see such patients." Dr Gingell called for GPs to painless and advanced treatbe trained to administer the inment. They phone up and get an incredibly slick salesman on the jections: "It would cut out the necessity of referring. I don't see other end and they are hooked." why GPS should not be able to Even if they feel that they do the treatment themselves."



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Skier's 900ft death plunge

falling nearly 900 feet in the French Alps was a keen sports-woman who "lived life to the full", neighbours said yesterday.

Nottingham-born Ceiwen Faulkner, 32, who lived in London, was skiing off-piste at 6,800ft when the accident hap-She slipped as a guide was taking her, husband Peter and

three other skiers down a treacherous mountain path in the Meije region of the Alps. near the French resort of La "The woman must have been

a good skier because the accident happened in a very dangerous area - off-piste and high on a glacier full of crevasses. said a mountain rescue worker in La Grave.

Antoine Sullivan, who lives next door to the house in Highbury, north London, where the Faulkners have lived for about 10 years, described them as "a very friendly and happy

He added: "They were won-

A British skier who died after sporty. They were always off on some holiday or another - skiing, scuba diving and tennis." His wife, Christine, said: "They lived life to the full, a young couple with no children

- they just thought why not make the most of life?" Skiers are always advised to take a guide and not to stray off course if they wish to venture to the spot where Mrs Faulkn-

er died. The area is notorious for accidents and a rescue worker said: "Every season we have several bad accidents up there. It's inevitable. Thick snow gives way to ice and unexpected drops. Even in good weather

skiers are at great risk." He said Monday's accident happened in ideal conditions sunny weather and plenty of SDOW.

Two mountain rescue workers took the body off the mountain by helicopter and they counselled Mr Faulkner after he had formally identified his wife. An inquiry has been opened into the accident by the French derful people, very active and authorities.

Cookery queen is out of flavour

The popular food writer Delia Smith has been snubbed by the foodie "Oscars". Neither her best-selling book Delia Smith's Winter Collection, not the BBC television programme of the same name have been shortlisted by the prestigious Glenfiddich Awards.

verts in magazines that promise

a simple and easy solution or

The Winter Collection book broke all records, selling 1.7 million in just weeks and topping the sales charts at the end of last year. That and Delia Smith's other cookery books made her £3m in royalties last year alone. But the queen of kitchen



food and drink writing world. Delia Smith won a special award last year for services to

Della Smith: Off the menu

morist Alan Coreu, Sainsbury's off-licence director Allan Cheesman, and restaurateur Jeremy King plumped for more obscure "foodie" names for the awards, to be given on 17 April. Food books shortlisted are The Classic Food of Northern Italy, by Anna Del Conte; The River Café Cook Book, by Ruth

cookery books does not feature

in the Glenfiddich shortlist. In-

stead, the judges including hu-

Rogers and Rose Gray; The Modern Cook's Manual, by Lynda Brown and A Provencal Table, by Richard Olney. The television programmes

were Slice Of Life, Janis Robinson's Wine Course and Rick Stein's Taste Of The Sea, all shown on BBC Television. A spokeswoman for Glenfiddich said: "We like to think of ourselves as the Oscars of the

the world of food writing. "But she has not been nominated this year, and that is really down to the judges, who change every year."

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Education conferences: Union demands return to methods of 15 years ago to cope with disruptive children

'Schools cannot cope with violent pupils'

FRAN ABRAMS **Education Correspondent**

Violent pupils should be removed from classrooms by reopening special schools which have been closed in the past 15 years, a teachers' union con-

ference was told yesterday. Disruption had escalated so far that some pupils arriving at nursery on their first day were out of control and could not be taught, the union's leader said. More than 300 special

schools have closed since 1979 under a policy of increased integration. The Warnock Report on special educational needs, which was backed up by legislation in 1981, called for such pupils to be brought back into mainstream education rather than being kept apart.

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers conference, in Glasgow, was told the move had placed intolerable strain on

the union's executive, said that

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neither teachers, the children concerned nor the other pupils benefited.

Schools did not have the resources to deal with the problems and were often unable to provide enough specialist help for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Local authorities which had closed special schools, reducing their numbers from 1.600 in 1979 to less than 1,300, were of-Chris Keates, a member of ten trying to cut costs, she said. Units for disturbed children

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fraught with difficulties, she said. Decisions on which children to admit might be taken pupils might cause problems at break times and it might be difficult to exclude them if they

vere impossible to handle. Large classes, under-funding and a surfeit of government initiatives had made it impossible for mainstream schools to cope, she added. "Advocating support and specialist provision is not about abandoning children. It is about recognising the very special needs these pupils have and establishing the most appropriate provision to address both needs," she said.

Bob Ball, a delegate from Hampshire, said that his county had recently had a school ruled failing by inspectors. One-third of the pupils taking GCSE the previous year had been excluded from other schools in the county. "What chance did the teachers in that school stand? Those pupils should not have

A motion to the conference likely to be passed today, calls for the union to oppose the con-Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said schools

could not be blamed when children who arrived for their first day at nursery school beat up fellow pupils and refused to take any notice of their teachers. These children must be excluded. "I have to live in the real world," he said, "Schools are not social institutions, they are being forced to adopt a role they simply cannot cope with."

Teachers and pupils at a school in Bedfordshire were horrified to find live maggots falling from the classroom ceiling on to their heads, the con-

Pigeons had become trapped in the roof at Ashton Middle school in Dunstable and had died there, said Ray Mellor, a secondary teacher. The incident two years ago highlighted the need for school building regulations which had been dropped by the Government, he said.



Fringe activity: Activists handing out leaflets outside the NUT conference Photograph: Huw Evans

Rank and file moderates keep the militants at bay

As left-wing delegates from the National Union of Teachers' conference head home in triumph, parents may be wondering whether a new wave of militancy is about to sweep

classrooms. It is not. The defeat of the leadership's clans for one-member onevote - designed to wrest control from the far left - will make little or no difference to the lives of pupils or the vast majority of those who teach them.

The union's leadership remains in the hands of an executive where moderates are in a majority and they have shown before how easily conference decisions can be ignored.

The fact that delegates voted against the plan to get all conference decisions ratified by the membership will make no difference. Last year, conference voted for a one-day strike over big classes. The executive simply balloted the membership which voted no to a strike by a large majority and nothing happened. It also adopted its own salaries strategy and put in a joint pay submission with oth-

Analygis er unions against the wishes of

passed this year saying that members will walk out if teachers are sacked after receiving a bad report from inspectors is likely to be similar. The chance of nursery school teachers abandoning classes of three and four-year-olds is remote even if teachers do lose their jobs as a result of the voucher scheme. Given the Government's diffi-

operators, this one is a fardistant prospect. Delegates ran out of time before they reached a motion urging a boycott of tests for 11year-olds to stop league tables but it would not have hap-pened. The majority of delegates are now so divorced from most of the union's ordinary members that they seem to be

culties in attracting new private

moving in a fantasy world. The reason for this, as speak-

conference in the debates on teachers no longer have the time nor the inclination to turn up at the local branch meetings which pick delegates. Meetings which

used to attract dozens, have difficulty mustering a quorum. There are three political groups on the left who joined together to defeat the more moderate executive. The executive has 23 members, 21 from the moderate broad left and 19 from the three far-left groups. There are two uncommitted members who are unlikely to back the far left. This year's president is Carole Regan, a member of the Socialist Teachers' Alliance, which includes Militant and other groups on

the left of the Labour Party. One of the speakers who opposed the changes to the union rules on democracy argued that if the changes were passed the conference would no longer matter. Others might say that it does not matter anyway.

McAvoy issues warning to far-left activists

DOUL HTIQUE Education Editor

Far-left delegates who defeated proposals for greater union democracy may be reported to the ordinary members they represent, a teachers' leader

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, warned the union's annual conference that he would press on with plans for one-member one-vote which were supported by more than 80 per cent of ordinary member in a ballot. Outside the conference he said that details of delegates' voting might be sent to the union's local associations.

In his speech to the Cardiff conference, he said: "I believe that our members' faith in the union will transcend the adverse publicity that this rejection has attracted. The voice of the members will be heard and they will insist that their union listens to their views."

He said the union would forfeit any influence it might have over a new Labour government or the parties' election manifestos unless they got to grips with reality. "If we appear obdurate and devoid of any willingness to consider new idea then we will forfeit any right to influence the actions of the next government."

He argued for a new body to represent all six teachers' unions which would be created after two or more of them had agreed to dissolve. Those who and spoken against unity in conference feared that their policies would not be acceptable n a larger body. "The logic of that assertion is that they are not representative of the vast majority of teachers," he said.

He attacked the Governnent, which he described as "the most unpopular in history", and which he said was trying to dismantle comprehensive education. And he defended teachers against the assertion by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, that 15,000 teachers should be sacked. "The union does not accept that this wild claim has any foundation in fact. The truth is that teachers are not failing their pupils. It is the Government that is failing the nation, the children

and teachers." Will Reese from Coventry, a member of the Socialist Teach ers' Alliance, said the debate on union democracy had been a diversion and must be put behind them. The union must unite around the policies adopt-

ed by the conference. Delegates passed a motion threatening local strikes if any teachers lose jobs or suffer worse working conditions because of the nursery voucher scheme. They fear some teachers in state nursery schools may be made redundant if the scheme leads to a big expansion Judith Judd of private nursery schools.

Police investigate cannabis club

A new club which opens today and offers prospective members the chance to taste "cannabis food" is to be investigated by the

The Cannabis Hemp Information Club (CHIC), based at "The House of Hemp" in Redchurch Street, East London. includes a museum and information centre.

A press releases reveals the hance for members to "view the exhibition and sample a selection of cannabis foods". the food. I have a Home Office pharmaceuticals, as an envi-Drug-runner Howard Marks. sentenced to 25 years in a US jail in 1988 for smuggling maruana and released last year, is

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "We are aware of the club and will be making further inquiries to establish whether any criminal offence has taken place." But Rob Christopher, the CHIC director, said: "There is nothing illegal in

billed as a special guest.

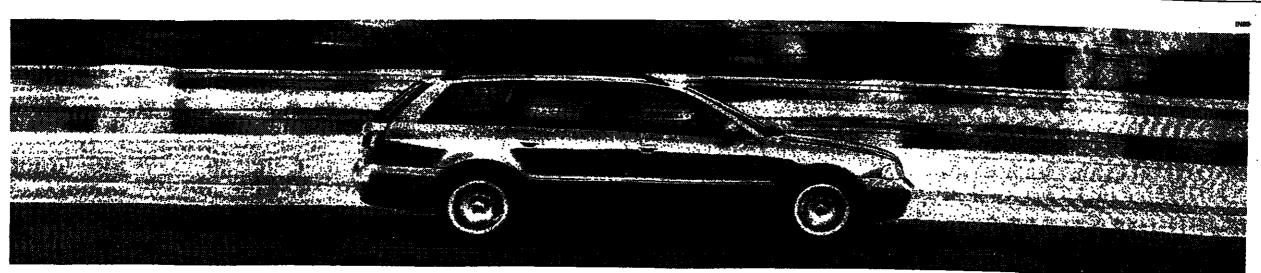
licence to grow cannabis for the seed, which is the most nutritious food known to man.

"It does not give you a high, and for the opening we are bagels and other confectionery.

No-one will be smoking joints." Mr Christopher said the aim was to educate people about the benefits of cannabis and to dismiss the "myth" about the drug. "It can be used for clothing, in to smoking pot."

ronmentally friendly fuel and in food," he added.

Mr Christopher hopes to enlist the support of prominent offering hemp case, hemp the legalisation of cannabis. "I am organising a National Turn Yourself In Day on 14 September when everyone across the country will show how илworkable the law is by going to police stations and admitting

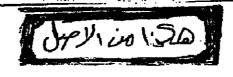


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Clinics' lines jammed over faulty HIV test

LOUISE JURY

Hospitals and clinics reopening after Easter were besieged with thousands of callers yesterday anxious to check whether they had been given the wrong HIVtest results. The wait for information began on Friday with leaked news of a faulty HIV testing procedure.

Figures from the test manufacturer, Abbott Laboratories, revealed they have so far found four positive results which falsely tested negative in more than 2.5 million tests world-wide, including one in Britain.

The Chicago-based company, which has a British office in Maidenhead, Berkshire, suspended distribution of the IMx HIV test on 25 March when the problem emerged and contacted the Department of Health four days later.

Clinics received details from Abbott Laboratories at the end of last week.

But as doctors and counsellors reported difficulties in reassuring many callers yesterday, there were criticisms that the Department of Health should have acted sooner. It planned to make an announcement this

A spokeswoman said: "We have been talking to people and trying to set up helplines and counselling. We hope to issue guidance to health authorities trying for a baby.

and trusts shortly and certainly by the middle of the week." However, discussions were not held with Aids charities. A Terrence Higgins Trust spokesman said: "It is right to co-ordinate a response to news like this. But ... it does seem to have

taken a very long time for a coordinated response to happen."

Derek Bodell, National Aids Trust director, said the manner in which the problem emerged put an onus on the Department of Health to act speedily in future. "There needs to be a complete review of how these

announcements are handled." David Free, sexual health services manager for Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals in London, said they realised the potential for a scare as soon as they learnt of the fault from the manufacturers last Thursday.

Switchboard and casualty staff were briefed to answer queries during the weekend. Genito-urinary clinics reopened yesterday, with the first calls coming at 8am and reaching 20 an hour. A handful of patients arrived in person.

Mr Free said the distress caused by the incident had been considerable. People who took a test because of sexual abuse or rape were reliving the experience. In some instances, the alert had alarmed couples who had taken the test before

In one case, a caller who had been unfaithful some time earlier was having to face again the worries of whether to tell a partner and children if the test proved positive.

"Because HIV is such a se rious diagnosis, it's very hard to tell people they are probably all right. People want to know definitely," he said.

He feared the scare would dent public confidence in HIV tests and hoped that, in future, any news would be released to coincide with clinic opening Robert Passas, scientific af-

fairs manager for Abbott Laboratories, said they were evaluating the test and hoped to have an improved version available by next month.

They would meet the costs of re-testing but emphasised that IMx currently detected "virtually all" HTV-positive cases. Up to 30,000 of between

100,000 and 125,000 HTV tests carried out since September are understood to have been carried out by the IMx system, which was introduced in Britain in

Beverley Priest, from London Lighthouse, Europe's biggest HIV centre, said she hoped that the incident would be a public health education lesson.

"It shows there are a lot of people who thought they might

Who will be the next pinball wizard?



Stage-struck: Girls preparing to be auditioned yesterday for the part of four-year-old Tommy in the musical at the Shaftesbury Theatre in the West End of London. Six new children will replace those who have played the young star since the show opened last month

National Astronomical Meeting: Scientists surprised by brightness of 'fluorescence' emitted by Hyakutake and changes on distant planet

Comet's X-ray vision lights up sky at night

TOM WILKIE

Comet Hyakutake - the most spectacular comet visible to the naked eye for 20 years - has pulled an major surprise on astronomers. It is not just bright with visible light, it is "fluores-

This is the first case of X-rays being emitted by a comet. They were picked up by the German orbiting X-ray satellite Rosat at the end of March.

According to Dr Alan Fitz simmons, an astrophysicist from Queen's University Belfast, who lectured on the comet in Liverpool yesterday: "Everybody's just sitting back and saying 'Wow. X-rays from a comet!'."

This week and

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tronomers could not make and then re-emitted by a sense of the observations. "We don't know where they come from," he said.

Dr Konrad Dennerl of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics at Garching in Germany, where the effect was observed, said thrilling moment". The team observed the emis-

sions over a period of 24 hours as the comet neared its closest approach to earth. It was less than 10 million miles away when Rosat started observing.

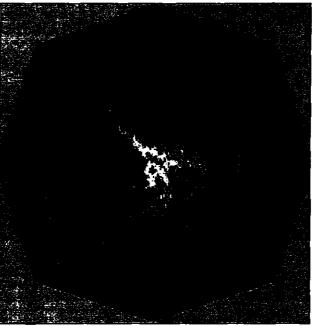
The X-rays seem to come from a crescent-shaped region on its sunward side. One theory is that X-rays from the sun were absorbed by the comet's "atmosphere" of water vapour a deep red."

Dr Fitzsimmons said that as- surrounding the icy nucleus process known as fluorescence.

A second theory is that the X-rays are produced from the violent collision between the comet and the supersonic "wind" of plasma and particles streaming away from the sun.

According to Dr Fitzsim

mons, comets such as Hyakutake which venture past the Earth probably originate from Pluto. More than 30 large bodies, known as "Kuiper Belt Objects", have been found, he said. "Their surfaces are dark as coal or even darker. We think their surfaces are covered with a layer of dark carbon-based molecules . . . The colour varies. Some are almost grey and some



Spiral jets emanating from the rotating nucleus of comet Hyakutake can be seen in this false-colour image taken electronically with a charge-coupled device by Dr Alan Fitzsimmons at the observatory of Queen's University, Belfast

Storm clouds gathering as spring comes to Uranus

TOM WILKIE

It's springtime on the planet Uranus. And just as April showers herald spring here in Britain. the clouds are gathering in the skies above Uranus. The difference is that the seasons on few years I think there may be when it is active and that de-Uranus last for more than 20 of interesting things happening our earth years. Not even Gene Kelly would have kept on

singing in the rain for that long. The sight of a few wisps of cloud in the atmosphere of this distant gas giant planet has taken astronomers by surprise, ac-cording to Dr Heidi Hammel, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who lectured on Exploring the Giant Planets with the Hubble space telescope" at the conference. When, a decade ago, it was

probe, the pictures revealed an apparently featureless disk, but now the Hubble Space Tele-scope is showing that clouds are forming, the harbinger of changing weather. "In the next on Uranus." Dr Hammel said.

She added: "Uranus is so peculiar because its rotational axis is tipped over 90 degrees." The Earth's axis points almost vertically upwards out of the disk of the solar system whereas the axis of Uranus lies in the plane of the system. This means that, loosely speaking, for about a quarter of the orbit, the "North" Pole points at the sun, for the next quarter the equator points sunwards, for the next

quarter it's the South Pole and visited by the Voyager space then its the equator again.

Dr Hammel believes the reason Voyager took such disappointing pictures of the planet just happened to be an accident of timing. Uranus has times pends on what season it is We're not used to thinking about seasons that are 20 years long".

Astronomers in the 1890s had reported that they observed clouded bands on Uranus although such clouds had not been observed since, Dr. Hammel said. Now the images of the Hubble telescope, which is able to picture the atmosphere of the planet developing over time are "rapidly changing our perception of these planets and how stable they are.'

This week in a independi

on Monday

A new regular section, Family Life, that deals with the interests and problems of parents and children. Julie Myerson's column also focuses on home life Plus: a new series - Do we need? - which challenges the icons of modern Britain

And, every, Monday unrivalled coverage of the expanding world of information technology in our Network pull-out section.

on Tuesday

Health: how wearing a virtual reality helmet could help care phobias and other psychological problems. Plus: flaky nails are not simply a problem for the vain

A 24-page tabloid section with all the action from the weekend's sporting action. Plus: the Monday interview in which a leading figure comes under the microscope, an unbeatable results service, gossip, speculation and fact from behind the scenes and the best in sports

but a sign of ill-health, so what can be done about them? Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual

on Wednesday

Bridget Jones's diary continues to chronicle the encounters and exquisite embarrassments in the life of Britain's most-read spinster. Plus: the midweek travel section, your money, finance

and law. In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of

All our regular features, including Virginia Ironside's emmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education

and graduate plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 101/2 inches

24Seven - a new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section, including a complete day by day planner for the week ahead, plus eight pages of pop and classical music

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights. Plus:













out.





Calls grow for abuse report to be published

Charities and pressure groups concerned with the welfare of children have called for the report on Britain's biggest child abuse scandal to be made public. Their calls come in the wake of the decision by Clwyd County Council not to publish the report on abuse at children's homes in the county.

The three authors have been unable to comment on the report and attempts are currently being made to recover the numbered copies sent to them. A public inquiry has already been demanded by the authors of the 300-page document, who said in the report: "These issues are all of fundamental importance and we regard it as imperative that they are addressed in the full view of public scrutiny."

The trio, chaired by John

Jillings, former director of dren. There are very serious imsocial services for Derbyshire, plications here, and if lessons added: "We consider that a public judicial inquiry under the arrangements set out in section should be initiated."

Yesterday, calls for the report to be made public were echoed by most of the leading British child care agencies.

Valerie Howarth, chief executive of Childline, said: "The safety and well-being of young people should be paramount. We want publication of the report so that lessons can be learnt and that young people making claims for compensation have access to the full facts." Tom White, chief executive of

NCH Action for Children, said: There should be publication of the report. It would be a shame if the interests of insurers were overriding those of chil-

are to be learnt they can only be learn through publication of

Jan Burnell, director of the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Agencies - the national umbrella organisation for children's charities - said: The report must be published and everything made available to public scrutiny. If a very serious report like this cannot be

published, it is a very big issue."
While Catriona Williams, director of Children in Wales, said: "It is essential that this report is not suppressed. We want the report published and to see the recommendations which will be of importance to all people involved in the care of children. We also want indemnity for the authors."

Such indemnity could be giv-

mons Library. Rhodri Morgan, Labour's health spokesman in Wales, said yesterday that he will request a formal meeting with William Hague next week when the Secretary of State for Wales returns from a trade mission North America - to discuss the publication of the report and the growing demands for a public judicial inquiry. "If he has not acted by then

we will be demanding a formal meeting to discuss the placing of a copy of the report in the ommons library and a full judicial inquiry," Mr Morgan said. "We also want investigated the allegation in the report that at no time over a 10-year period was there a single visit by a Welsh Office inspector to a home in Clwyd. That is a very damning allegation."



Wrap artistry: Elizabeth Goring, curator of the mummy collection at the National Museums of Scotland, with one of the mummies

Secrets of the mummies to be revealed

A hi-tech programme to discover the secrets of Egyptian mummies was launched yesterday. The four-year project involves subjecting the mummies, which range from 2,000 to 4,000 years old, to procedures including DNA testing and examination with a hospital CT (computed tomography)

Researchers with the project, launched in Edinburgh, hope the details they uncover will include the causes of death of the 10 bodies, which include the remains of three children. The mummies are owned by the National Museums of Scotland, who are trying to raise up-to £100,000 in grants for the work.

Elizabeth Goring, curator of the collection, said the work would give experts in Britain the best understanding so far of the history of mummies. Information from the CT scanner would be used to make three-dimensional plastic models of the mummies' skulls and to try to re-create their features.

Three of the sets of remains which were unwrapped earlier this century, would undergo DNA tests. Among those to be tested were the bones of a woman and child found buried together. The tests would establish whether the bodies were a mother and her child. The other bones, belonging to a three-year-old boy, would be tested to see why he died.

The body was found in a double coffin with another mummy, which had not been unwrapped but was believed to

How to find a carrot.



To help locate the different types of food on a plate, a blind person can treat the plate like a clock face and place the food on it accordingly. So meat sits at 12 o'clock, potatoes at 6 o'clock and carrots at 9 o'clock.

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It's a simple solution to an everyday problem. But have you ever considered how a blind person might iron a shirt or fry an egg? The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) produces everyday items us on 0345 023040. which help visually impaired people carry out tasks sighted people take for granted. We also offer training to help people who have lost

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challenging blindness

Royal National Institute for the Blind

their sight learn the skills active lives. RNIB's work is especially important if visually impaired people



'Distasteful' royal TV advert to stay

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

Live TV, the cable channel which features Topless Darts and scantily clad weather girls, vesterday vowed to continue running an advertisement which offended the Queen and which it has been ordered to withdraw.

It is now on a collision course with the Advertising Standards Authority, which ruled that the Predictions programme should be dropped.

It features a wedding photograph of the Prince and Princess of Wates, with Prince Charles's head replaced by that of a grin-

A mysterious caller could hold

vital clues to the murder of a

wealthy scientist's wife found

naked and handcuffed at a

secluded farmhouse a year ago.

The anonymous man has

wice telephoned police hunt-

ng the killer of Janet Brown, 51,

Hall Farm, in Radnage,

Yesterday, Detective Super-

intendent Michael Short, who

is heading the inquiry, appealed

for the man to contact police

again. Det Supt Short said: "I would ask that person to con-tact us. What he is telling us

makes sense. It's really impor-tant that we speak to him."

It was unlikely that the calls

vere hoaxes and their tone and

Buckinghamshire.

was beaten to death at

ning Paul Gascoigne and with the Princess of Wales apparently kissing the footballer.

The photograph was head-lined: "Who knows what the future holds?" - an apparent reference to the Princess's friendship with Will Carling, another famous British sportsman.

Charles Anson, the Oueen's press secretary, had claimed the advertisement was distasteful and that neither the Prince nor for Live TV to use the picture.

But the advertisers. Young and Rubicam, argued that the photograph had been in the public domain for 15 years. Their approach, they claimed was

himself believed the information

he gave was of significance.

The information seems cor-

rect," Det Supt Short added.

The calls did not appear to be

from the killer himself, nor did

trol room at Aylesbury police

station at 9.10pm on 3 Febru-

ary. The second, almost a repeat

of the first call, was left on an

answerphone at Maidenhead

police station on 27 February.

the day since the murder. Mrs Brown was alone at home while

her husband, Dr Graham

Brown, 53, worked in Switzer-

land. The couple's three chil-

dren, Zara, 22, Roxanne, 17 and

Thursday will be one year to

The first was made to the con-

they identify the killer.

The caller seems genuine.

Mystery calls over

farmhouse murder

"humorous and not offensive". The ASA said the advertisement should be withdrawn because it broke the rule banning references to the Royal Family. But Kelvin MacKenzie, man-

aging director of Mirror Television which owns the cable station, said that Live TV would not bow to an outdated and arcane advertising code. "The rule was made 25 years

ago to protect the royals when ... In 1996 they have abdicated that position and they are basically one of us," he said. The ASA also upheld a com-

plaint by the Catholic Media Office about two mail order advertisements by the Lourdes Research Organisation for a statue of the Virgin "in a dome immersed in the miraculous water of Lourdes".

They claimed Lourdes was the "the place where the world singst numerous and astounding date acles occur" and that the righers of "even a few drops of this water constantly attest to the ... fortunate events that occur in all aspects of their lives".

whether the so-called LRO could prove Lourdes water or statues brought good fortune and objected that its name implied it was an official body. Both complaints were upheld.

DAILY POEM

Jealousy

By Stephanie Reynolds

Jealousy is dark blue. Jealousy is when Samuel is getting a cuddle on the settec without one.

Jealousy sounds like crying and huffiness. Jealousy tastes sour in your throat. Jealousy feels like you have two hearts, One going up in anger, And one going down with sudness

Stephanie Reynolds, who comes from Hull, wrote this poem one of the award-winning entries in the eight years and under category of the 1995 WH Smith Young Writers' Competition when she was seven. Commended by the judging panel, which included Ted Hughes, John Agard, Jan Mark and Kit Wright, it is one of nearly 150 prose and verse works which appear in Electric Full Stops, published by Macmillan Children's Books this month at £4,99

Winning entries from Electric Full Stops are featured in the Independent's poem slot each day this week. Details for entry into the 1997 WH Smith Young Writers' Competition will

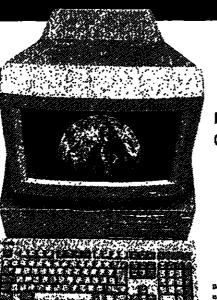
content suggested that the caller Benedict, 21, were also away. Better spec. Better price. Better hurry.

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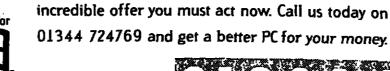


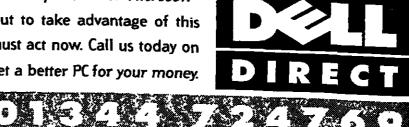


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* ARTHUR AND

Helpline to counsel 'suicidal' doctors

GLENDA COOPER

A 24-hour helpline is to be launched for doctors after a British Medical Association survey revealed that one in five had contemplated suicide and many were taking to drink or

drugs.
The BMA chairman, Dr Sandy Macara, laid the blame for high levels of stress at the Government's door, linking its rise to "intolerable practice" within the National Health Service.

"Almost 90 per cent of peo-ple perceived that their levels of stress were greater than five years ago," he said. "It is no coincidence that we are about to celebrate the fifth anniversary of NHS reforms."

The one-year pilot telephone service, staffed by trained counsellors from the specialist company Care Assist, aims to provide doctors with "coping strategies" for dealing with high levels of stress in the work place, Sandra Ridley, manager of the counselling services, said.

The survey of more than 800 GPs and hospital doctors published in the BMA News Review magazine found seven out of ten doctors said they suffered from work-related stress. More than one-third increased their alcohol consumption to help them cope, and a few became drug abusers.

Nearly 90 per cent of doctors thought they faced greater stress than they did five years



ago and the same proportion felt patients had been encouraged to make unreasonable demands on them. More than 20 per cent said stress caused them to think of committing suicide.

But the "continued preva-lence of a macho medical culture" meant few - only 15 per cent - were likely to seek professional help, preferring to talk to family, colleagues or friends. Just 17 per cent said

point where their health and their ability to work safely are suffering. If we judged ourselves as we judge our patients, many of us would be off sick."

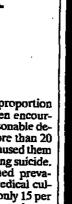
"One of my partners recently suffered burn-out, which led to alcohol abuse and attempted suicide. This caused great stress and guilt for the rest of us." Dr Macara said he was "shat-

tered" by the results of the BMA survey. He said: "We have the intolerable practice of doctors being told which patients to give priority to on the basis of where the money is.

"Added to that ... the Government has incited higher expectations in patients of the service they should receive in an environment which doesn't have the resources to provide

"It doesn't guarantee higher standards, but it is the best guarantee of demoralising and alien-

Representatives Meeting in Harrogate, members called on the Government to set up such a helpline and authorised the BMA to launch a pilot scheme if the Government did not act.



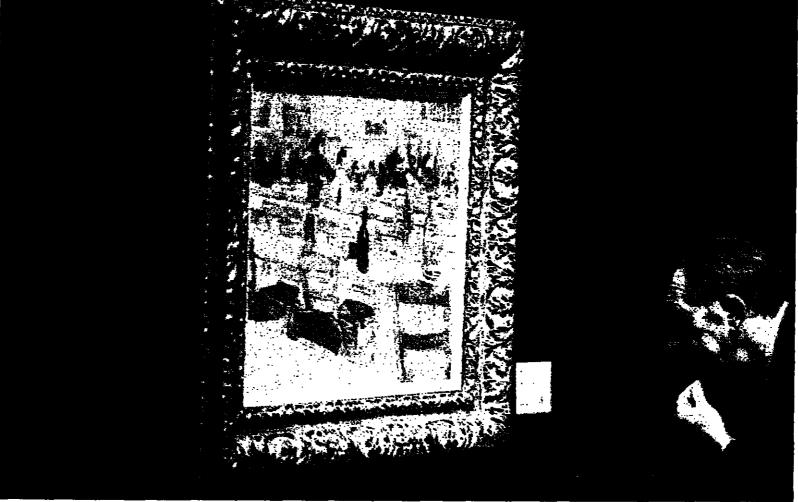
they had taken time off work. One anonymous West Country family doctor said: "Many GPs I know are stressed to the

Another from Wales said:

those standards of patient care.

ating those who are doing their best in difficult circumstances." Last year at the BMA Annual

The secretary of the association, Dr Mac Armstrong, said: "If I were the managing director of a company and it was revealed that my key personnel were suffering from this degree of stress, **Macara: Doctors** I would be calling for the head demoralised and alienated of personnel on a plate."



Rare scene: Van Gogh's Intérieur d'un Restaurant, to be in Christie's London Impressionist and Modern Art auction on 30 April Photograph: Edward Webb

'Snags' hindered attempts to save pilot

Crew and medical staff fighting to save a dying airline captain who collapsed during a flight ran into a series of snags, an official report revealed yesterday.

Roger Attenborough, 54, siumped unconscious as he prepared to land a 220-passenger Britannia Airways Boeing 757 at Malaga airport in southern

the aircraft safely but Captain Attenborough was declared dead after he was taken to hospital. An Air Accident Investigation Branch into the incident on

28 January found: □ A nurse could not be strapped into the jump (spare) seat in the cockpit so she could attend to

the nurse to get into the left observer's seat.

□ Having declared an emergency, the co-pilot could not land first time because the approach he was given triggered off a ground proximity warning

A waiting paramedic could not

His co-pilot managed to land The position of the captain's board for two or three minutes or none at all. Two flight attende aircraft safely but Captain Atseat also made it impossible for as the steps had not arrived. dants and the nurse gave the The report said the co-pilot had initially summoned assis-

tance after he noticed the captain was struggling for breath.
A flight attendant arrived to find the captain apparently unconscious. Neither the flight attendant nor the nurse could tell if he had a very faint pulse dants and the nurse gave the captain heart massage when the plane landed and the paramedic administered adrenaline.

The report said the captain "died during or shortly after the flight". It added that the Spanish authorities had carried out a post-mortem examination but a full medical report was awaited.

Farmer in court over sheds of cannabis

A police raid on a farmhouse on the estate of Earl Waldegrave the older brother of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, William Waldegrave - found around 1,000 cannabis plants growing in specially adapted sheds, a court was told yesterday.

The plants varied from a few inches to up to four feet in height and were being cultivated with the aid of special lighting and watering systems. They could have yielded up to £75,000-worth of cannabis, William Hart, for the prosecution, said at Bristol Crown Court.

Before the court was John Lucksted, 50, a farmer who manages a farm at Chewton Mendip, Somerset, on the estate of Lord Waldegrave.

The court heard that Mr Lucksted admitted possessing the plants but claimed they were solely for his own use. He denies a charge of possessing the plants with intent to supply to others.

Mr Hart said police raided the farm last September and found "substantial quantities" of cannabis in the house. In three sheds nearby cannabis plants were being grown.

He said that an expert at the Home Office's forensic science laboratories at Chepstow had examined one of the flowering tops of a plant and discovered it was the strongest ever

examined by the laboratories. Mr Hart said Mr Lucksted who was arrested last October, maintained that he was a heavy smoker of cannabis, using around 30z a week. He said the farmer claimed he was growing it all for his personal con-sumption and did not intend supplying to anyone else."

Threat to Prince's village

The Prince of Wales's dream village will lose its unique rustic identity if bureaucrats in a neighbouring town get their way. Councillors in Dorchester, Dorset, want to extend their town's boundaries to swallow up the Prince's £22m Poundbury

development. Residents of the village, which is built on Duchy of

Victorian, Gothic and Renaissance styles. Thousands of homes are to be built there in the next 25 years.

Dorchester Town Council, which wants to expand its boundaries to take in the Prince's parish, has turned to the district council for backing. This week its policy and re-Commall land, say the plans will—sources committee is to decide—levy tax on the new homes built rob the settlement of its rural whether to recommend a there in the future.

atmosphere. Properties combine boundaries review by the Local Government Commission. Dorchester's Town Clerk,

Dennis Holmes, said it had been a long-term view that the boundaries should be expanded. But Bill Brazier, chairman of Bradford Peverell Parish Council, which includes Poundbury, says Dorchester wants to expand so that the council can

and Derbyshire. He had failed

to turn up at a trial for burglary

been involved. After the raid

failed, Holden hit the shop

manager over the head with an

iron bar before fleeing, shoot-

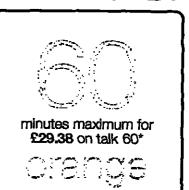
Holden is believed to have

at Doncaster Crown Court.

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Tobacco giant loses £2m | Suicide gunman claim against widow

A giant tobacco firm which demanded that a widow should pay £2m in legal fees before she sued it over the death of her husband from lung cancer, lost its court action yesterday.

Lord Gill, at the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Scotland's supreme civil court, rejected the claims of Imperial Tobacco Ltd that Margaret McTear, of Beith, Strathclyde, should have to find the £2m for expenses of the litigation.

Her late husband, Alfred McTear, who died of lung cancer aged 49, in 1993, had begun the legal action against the tobacco company, suing for £100,000 when his disease was diagnosed. The action is regarded as a test case.

Mr McTear, who had been a cigarette smoker for 30 years, claimed that Imperial Tobacco should have known smoking caused hing cancer. He said that the company had failed to warn its customers of the dangers of

In the present action, Imperial Tobacco claimed that case would cost £2m and would take about 15 people two years to complete. It demanded security against the very real risk of incurring irrecoverable

Colin McEachran QC, for Mrs McTear, who is working for her on a no-win, no-fee basis, had earlier told the court: "Mrs McTear is clearly unable to meet even £1m. She has little capital and a meagre income. Imperial Tobacco are making a mountain out of a straightforward case.

Yesterday, Lord Gill said in his written judgment: "Where a case can be seen to be hopeless the court is entitled and probably obliged to order caution [payment of some legal fees in advance]. But where, as in this case, that cannot properly be said, I consider that the court should be reluctant to make an assessment of the pursuer's

Lord Gill said Mrs McTear worked in Littlewoods and had a widow's pension. She was not receiving funding from any source. She had been refused leresearch needed to defend the gal aid and her legal advisers were acting for her on a spec-

Last year over

1.000,000 people

is no hope of her finding caution in any significant amount".

The judge said that whatever the intention behind Imperial Tobacco's present legal action for Mrs McTear to find £2m caution, the inevitable effect of its being granted would be that the damages action which she is pursuing against

Lord Gill said: "In deciding on a motion of this kind, the court must have a proper regard to the avoidance of injustice to

to an end.

Imperial Tobacco would come

"But the court must also keep in mind the risk that if the pursuer's means or the defender's probable expenses, or both, were to be decisive of the question, a pursuer with a potentially valid claim might be denied access to justice." The judge refused Imperial

Tobacco's claims for Mrs McTear to put up the £2m caution for legal expenses. Mrs McTear can now go ahead with her £100,000 damages action against the tobacco

murder suspect A gunman who killed himself Holden, from Doncaster, South after a botched armed robbery Yorkshire, was wanted for a sewas wanted for murders in ries of crimes in his home town

Spain and Portugal, police said yesterday. John Willie Holden, 52, shot day after running from a jewellery shop. His body was found with an automatical found with an automatic pistol, more than 40 rounds of ammunition, a two-way radio and

a canister of CS gas. Detective Superintendent Geoff Walker, leading an inquiry into the incident, said



ing at chasing police. He stopped outside a toy store and shot himself in the head. been involved in the murder of a British tourist who was shot

dead on a beach in Quateira, Portugal, in October 1993. The second murder was in the Spanish resort of Fuengirola last July. Police said he had been involved in an argument with a Scottish man in a bar. Holden left, returned five minutes later with a handgun and shot the man dead before turning the gun on the victim's girlfriend and the two British owners of the bar. All were seriously hurt

John Holden: Wanted man

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Chernobyl: Ten years on and 5 million have been exposed to radioactivity following blast

Row over death toll from worst nuclear disaster

Central Europe Correspondent

Almost 10 years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster there is still confusion over precisely how many victims it claimed. According to Ukrainian

health ministry officials, 125,000 of their countrymen have already died as a result of the accident and many more are set to follow. On top of that, tens of thousands are said to have gone down with crippling radiation-induced diseases, and incidences of thyroid cancer among children have gone up a hundredfold.

Western scientists dispute the figures, with some putting the number of deaths directly attributable to the disaster at just 45. They concede, however, that the full picture will not become clear for many years.

Ten years after Chernobyl we seem to have got nowhere with regard to the casualties," said David Kyd of the Viennabased International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "But those giving the higher figures tend to be people who want to draw attention to what happened and gain sympathy. The motive is pretty clear. No

matter how many people actually died as a result of it, the explosion at reactor number four of the Chernobyl nuclear pow er plant on 26 April 1986 still ranks as the biggest man-made disaster of the century.

Although the radioactive fallout from the blast reached Scotland, the highest concentration of people affected were in Ukraine and the then Soviet republic of Belarus, immediately

radioactivity following the blast. Commission, aims to look at the In Ukraine, Belarus and Ruscosts of Chernobyl in human, sia more than 500,000 people were displaced from affected towns and villages and thousands of square miles of land

were contaminated. Ten years on the sense of shock, for those who experienced it, remains acute. Alexander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus, yesterday told a gathering of international politicians and scientists in Vienna that Chernobyl had been a "radioactive tornado [the like of

which had] never seen before". Claiming that his country had ever since been devoting 25 per cent of its annual budget to dealing with the effects of the



disaster, he also used the occasion to plead for more aid from the international community. "I call upon you to help return the contaminated areas to full life." Mr Lukashenko said, "We cannot conduct this work on our

The Vienna conference, the north. which has been organised by the In all 5 million people are be- IAEA, the World Health Or-

environmental and even psychological terms. Its participants are also looking at how to ensure there can be no repeat of such a disaster. In addition to the two still at

Chemobyl itself, there are a further 13 Chernobyl-type reactors in operation in the former Soviet Union. Despite safety improvements, all of them still represent a danger, according to Western experts.

The countries operating the plants say they cannot shut them down because they depend on them for their power supplies. The cost of serious improvements at the plants is estimated at around \$100 (£65m)-\$150m per unit, but to date, Western pledges have amounted to only \$20-\$30m per unit.

The Ukrainian Prime Minister, Yevhen Marchuk, yesterday confirmed his readiness to close down the two reactors still in operation at Chernobyl by the year 2000 - as long as the right amount of Western aid would

ELIZABETH NASH

Five weeks after Spanish gen-

eral elections left the conserv-

ative Popular Party (PP) just

short of a ruling majority, horse

trading is intensifying to secure

for the party leader, Jose Maria

Aznar, enough parliamentary

votes to become prime minis-

ter. Success hangs on the 16

Catalan nationalist MPs, and to

a lesser degree the five moder-

other two weeks to make up

Mr Aznar, in his passion for

a deal, is being pushed to meet

demands for regional autono-

contemplated by the previous

Socialist government. This would mark an extraordinary

turnaround for a party born of

Buenos Aires — Remains of

skulls and other human bones

have been found in the bread

oven at a maximum-security iail, where seven inmates dis-

appeared during a revolt last

"Several bones have been

found among the oven's ashes.

including femur heads and parts

of skulis." a court official said.

We have not been able to de-

termine yet how many victims there were or to whom the

bones belonged."
On Monday, the Buenos

Aires province Governor, Ed-

uardo Duhalde said prisoners

killed other inmates and cre-

their mind.

DAVID HASKEL

Mr Marchuk did not give afigure for the cost of shutting down Chemobyl, but in the past Ukraine has proposed a figure of around \$4bn to cover the completion of two new nuclear reactors, as well as continuing medical and other expenses for tens of thousands of people affected by the accident.

Last week, the Group of Seven major industrialised nations ate Basque nationalists, but neither grouping has yet opted offered Ukraine \$3.1bn in exfor Mr Aznar and may take anchange for closing the plant. With some in Ukraine resisting the move, G7 leaders meeting in Moscow later this month may even increase the offer. my that could surpass anything

gional voices in the PP even urge constitutional reform to transform Spain into a Germanstyle federation.

The Catalan leader, Jordi Pujol, said yesterday in Barcelona that the focus of talks between the two parties was regional autonomy. But nothing was in the bag. "We have received few requests from the PP, but those we have received don't amount to much. Things are still at an early he said, and added: We are not going to vote for Aznar in exchange for nothing.

Without the Catalans, Mr Aznar can kiss goodbye to power, and Mr Pujol is alive to the opportunity this offers. A deal will centre around a bigger Catalan share of tax revenues wealthy Catalonia contributes 25 per cent more to Madrid than the national average and receives 25 per cent less.

Madrid and the regions estab-

Aces high: The Catalan leader, Jordi Pujol, whose support will be necessary for Mr Aznar to take office as Prime Minister

Catalans display ruling passion

will not say how much. Mr Pu-

jol says he wants, in proportion

to the size of Catalonia's pop-

ulation, as much as Spain's

poorest regions. This would

mean a vast increase that would

stretch Madrid sorely and could

prompt howls of resentment

nar to recognise Catalonia as a

nation, beyond the autonomy

Mr Pujol also wants Mr A2-

from the poorer regions

ing detailed responses.

but the constitution itself provides for such an eventuality and Skulls found in Argentine jail oven

lateral deal shaping up between Madrid and Barcelona, Spain's other nationalities, the Basques and the Galicians, have put in their pennyworth. The conservative Basque National Party leader, Xabier Arzalluz, warned Mr Aznar this week that the Basques, too, wanted to be treated as a nation. He wants to complete a transfer of powers agreed by the Socialists. The Galician leader, Manuel

tary vote would be sufficient.

At the prospect of a juicy bi-

enjoyed by Spain's other regions, and to hand over to it Fraga, a PP founder and heavypowers on trade, penal, police weight, complained that Galiand prison matters, coastal fishing, ports, railways and aircia must not be marginalised, a plea that appears to have been ports. The PP has swallowed the heard by his party. Mr Fraga, a toad, as they say here, acceptminister under Franco, has ed the principle and is prepargone even further than the The move would transform Basques and the Catalans in his zeal to decentralise. He prothe balance of forces between poses that Spain become a fedlished in the 1978 constitution, eral state along German lines and reform its constitution. Fellow conservatives, unnerved

tremes are not yet necessary Mr Aznar and Mr Pujol. the men of the moment, appear an ill-matched pair, worlds apart in age, style and beliefs. The consummate operator. Mr Pujol, 65, was jailed by Franco for upholding Catalan rights, and has been a local hero for decades. Mr Aznar, 44, was swotting for his tax exams during upheavals that swept away the dictatorship, and despite his election victo-

ry, remains politically unproven. Neither man achieved prominence through beauty contests or charm schools, the editor of El Mundo newspaper observed recently, and neither, he noted, is a natural host for peak-time television spectaculars. But, the editor concluded, with a nod to the close of Casablanca, where Humphrey Bogart and Claud Rains stand together on the tarmac watching the plane depart, pragmatism and propinquity could spark the beginning of a

Dozens

lieved to have been exposed to ganisation and the European Reactor explosion 'could never happen again

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The Chernobyl nuclear disaster could not be repeated, either at Chemobyl itself or elsewhere in the former Soviet bloc, the Chairman of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (Wano) said yesterday in a statement marking the tenth anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident. Technical improvements to the installations and the growth of a Western-style "safety culture" meant that the accident "as it happened in 1986, cannot happen again".

But the Chernobyl explosion has received less attention than other nuclear sites in the former Soviet Union because of the economic situation in Ukraine. Similar reactors -RBMKs - in Russia itself had received more modifications. conceived in the 1960s and built

proving nuclear installations in Soviet Union, the same amount

Remy Carle, the chairman of the voluntary association which unites 126 operators of nuclear power plants around the world, was addressing a meeting of the association in London yesterday, the last before the anniversary of the accident on 26 April. He said the cost of redeploying workers, closing the plant and replacing it, estimated at \$1bn - had discouraged

the idea.
"The main causes of the accident have disappeared - the deficiencies have been

corrected," Mr Carle said. He said the main design shortcomings of the RBMK reactor,

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Although the European Union in the 1970s, were the design of had put about £5m into imcoefficient". Before the accieastern Europe and the former dent, the control rods could cause a sharp increase in raagain was needed. dioactivity when they were lowered into a reactor operating at low power. This can no longer

happen.
The "void coefficient" is the change in reactivity - the intensity of the nuclear chain reaction - which accompanies a change in the density of the liquid circulating round the reactor core - the "primary coolant". When water turned to steam, reactivity would increase as the density of the coolant decreased. This could create a positive void coefficient, which could cause the reactor to become unstable. Steps taken meant this was now impossible. Attention had also been paid to

week-long revolt by 1,000 inmates at Sierra Chica prison. The revolt sparked riots among 5,000 inmates of other jails,

which ended on Sunday. The prisoner's rebellion held the Argentine public and the government of President, Carlos Menem in thrall for sever-

al days. Investigators said teeth were found in the prison's bakery oven. Mr Duhalde's comments appeared to confirm reports quoting inmates' relatives last week as saying 17 Sierra Chica prisoners were killed in fighting and their bodies incinerated in the prison bakery. It was not clear how the relatives knew this and authorities have confirmed only the death of a 51-year-old

Twenty-seven hostages, including a woman judge, were freed unharmed on Sunday as the prisoners surrendered after their leaders received guarantees there would be no reprisals

for the crisis.

There were conflicting reports on the concessions made to the prisoners, who revolted on 30 March. Mr Duhalde said no concessions were made beyond promising quick and widespread application of a law deducting two years from sentences for every year served

awaiting trial. But newspapers said the inmates were promised a prison commission with inmate representatives would be set up and that softer sentences for car theft would be applied.



inmate from stab wounds. fire-retardant measures. mated their bodies during the Croat camp chief to face Hague tribunal

KEIRON HENDERSON

Amsterdam - The UN war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia yesterday took custody of a Bosnian Croat prison camp commander, who is one of the first defendants to be charged with war crimes by the nian Serbs.

Zdravko Mucic, named in a tribunal indictment last month, was handed over by Austrian police at Schiphol airport and was immediately taken to the tribunal's detention centre, near

Mr Mucic, 41, was arrested in Vienna at the tribunal's was also accused of being

request and will appear at a pre-liminary hearing at the tribunal in The Hague tomorrow.

The tribunal last month charged Mr Mucic and three Bosnian Muslims with war crimes against Bosnian Serbs. Mr Mucic, charged with commanding the Celebici camp at Konjic, in central Bosnia,

between May and November 1992, was identified last month by the Bosnian Serb news agency as a Croat. The tribunal said he

accused of responsibility for crimes committed by his subordinates, including at least 14 murders, rape and torture. He

responsible for causing great suffering and for forcing detainees to have oral sex with each other, it said.

Mr Mucic and his deputy, Hazim Delic, were indicted along with Zejnil Delalic, a Bosnian Muslim military commander, and a Celebici camp guard, Esad Landzo.

Mr Delalic, who was the commander of a unit of Bosnian Muslim forces from June to November 1992, was arrested by the German police in Munich last month. The tribunal said then that it

expected to take custody of Mr Mucic and Mr Delalic "within still at large, although the Bosnian authorities have given the tribunal assurances that the accused men will be arrested

The two men were accused of beating men to death with wooden planks, baseball bats, shovels and pieces of cable, as well as torturing detainees, many in their sixties and sev-enties, with pliers, corrosives. electric currents and hot metal pincers.

and handed over.

On one occasion they were alleged to have nailed a Mus-lim political badge to a man's forehead. Mr Delic also faces two charges of multiple rape.

Mr Mucic is the second Croat to be taken into tribunal custody after a Bosnian Croat general, Tihomit Blaskic, gave himself up to the tribunal last week.

The tribunal now has four men in its custody from the 57 war crimes suspects it has charged. To date, the tribunal has indicted 46 Serbs, eight Croats and three Muslims.

The German authorities are also holding a Bosnian Serb, Goran Lajic, one of 13 Serbs, charged last July with atrocities against Muslims at the Keraterm prison camp in Prijedor. north-west Bosnia. The tribunal has said it expects Mr Lajic to be transferred soon.

Zimbabwe lake closed by pollution

Harare (Reuter) - The Zim-babwean government has closed the capital's main source of water to commercial fishing and recreational activities after the death of thousands of fish from suspected pollution.

Chen Chimutengwende, the Environment and Tourism Minister, said the closure at Lake Chivero was to allow the government to determine the extent of the problem. He warned people around the area, 25 miles from Harare, against eating fish from the lake. He said efforts were being made to identify the. source of the pollution and action would be taken against those responsible.

"I am warning manufacturing companies, local authorities and individuals to refrain from dumping toxic and hazardous substances and effluent into the Manyame river system and the lake," he said

City authorities in Harare have assured worried residents that the water is safe to drink because it is treated.

First signs of the problem, which local environmentalists are billing as one of the worst to hit Harare's water supplies, came three weeks ago, when officials began seeing dead fish

floating belly-up.
Scientists at the University of Zimbabwe in Harare blame high levels of ammonia, brought to the surface when cool tenperatures allowed deep water to rise, for the death of the fish.

Liberian warlord takes peace-keepers hostage

JACKSON KANNEH

Monrovia - Fighting between rival ethnic factions rocked Liberia's capital for a fourth day yesterday, as the United States approved the airlifting of its citizens and other foreign nationals Cout to safety.

Hundreds of frightened civil-ians, fearing a resumption of the six-year-old civil war, took advantage of a temporary hull in the fighting to seek refuge in the United States embassy annexe, swelling the number already sheltering there.

Fighters loyal to the fugitive warlord Roosevelt Johnson held several hundred Lebanese and Liberian civilians and about 20 Nigerian peace-keepers hostage in a barracks where Mr

Johnson was reported at one stage to be hiding. The fighting and looting began at the weekend with a stand-off between supporters of Mr Johnson and soldiers loyal to the ruling council of state, which sacked him as its rural development minister and ordered his arrest on charges of murder during a clash with militia rivals.

The six-member council, which was set up under the latest of a long line of peace deals, comprises the main faction leaders as well as civilians.

Shooting began again near the army barracks. Diplomats, officials and witnesses said that about 40 Lebanese, mostly women and children, about 20 eral hundred Liberians were be-

ing held in the barracks. Diplomats said more than 200 foreigners were in the main US embassy compound. Others were trapped in their homes elsewhere in the city.

About 450 Americans are in Liberia, Africa's oldest independent republic, and which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

The smouldering civil war, which has killed 150,000 people, began in 1989. But for the past three years the Liberian capital

has been comparatively safe. The barracks of the Armed Forces of Liberia, which are now just another militia faction, has been the focus of fighting which has flared sporadically else-

where in the city. Sustained bursts of shooting have mingled over the past few

days with mortar, artillery and rocket-propelled grenade blasts.

There was no reliable casualty toll from the fighting. Medical aid workers spoke of at least six dead and 40 wounded. West African peace-keepers

of the Ecomog force patrolled the city. A spokesman said that they were trying to broker a "At the end of the day, all of

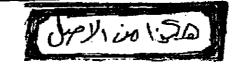
us have to come to the negotiating table. It is my appeal to all of the parties to cease fire," Ma-jor-General John Intenger said. offering his Ecomog force as mediators,

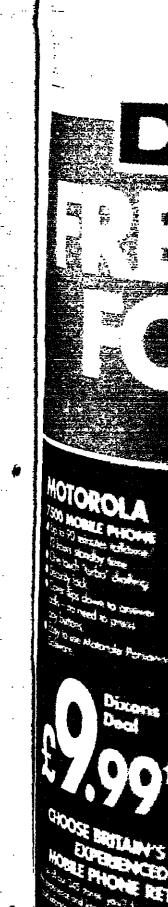
chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, which sent in the peace-keepers, told Mr Johnson that they would ensure his security during talks on his differences

with the council of state. However, his whereabouts is

Last August's peace deal envisaged a ceasefire, disarmament and elections taking place within a year. But skirmishing militiamen

have repeatedly breached the ceasefire, while the process of disarmament has yet to start.





Jordan joins anti-Saddam crusade

PATRICK COCKBURN

- Wilder Tolk Wilder

In a sign that King Hussein is joining the enemies of Iraq, US air force fighter aircraft will for the first time start to use bases in Jordan to enforce the no-fly

zone over southern Iraq.
The arrival of the 30 fighters and 1,000 air force personnel marks a reversal of policy for Jordan, which for five years has been Iraq's lifeline to the outside world

The US aircraft are officially in Jordan for two months of war games codenamed "Eager Tiger" but the willingness of King Hussein to allow them to

overfly Iraq shows that he has, in effect, joined the Gulf war aland the other in the south of the out tility of King Hussein is a serious blow. There are tighter relies. During the war in 1991 Jordan maintained a benevolent neutrality towards Iraq and incurred the hostility of the US. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The no-fly zone over southern Iraq was imposed by the US in 1992 to protect Iraqis in the south of the country from Iraqi air attack. In addition to the surveillance flights by 18 Flos and 12 F15s supported by four tanker aircraft, the US will train the Jordanian air force, which is to receive 16 F16s in 1997. The US planes will be stationed at two bases, one at

Azraq, 40 miles from Amman,

Relations between Amman and Baghdad have deteriorated sharply since August last year, when Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, fled to Amman. His public welcome by king Hussein marked the end of Jordan's previously friendly relations with Baghdad, which date back to the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980, and the start of a much closer alliance with the US and Israel.

The road across the desert from Baghdad to Amman is Iraq's only land route to the outside world, so the growing hosstrictions on trade with Iraq, and the Iraqi opposition has been allowed to establish offices in Amman. General Wafiq al-Sameral, former head of Iraqi military intelligence, who defected to the opposition and had

been living in Damascus, moved

to Jordan in the last week. There is no doubt that President Saddam is angered by King Hussein's turning against him. When an Iraqi diplomat was expelled recently, Jordanian sources say he was found conducting a surveillance of the house of Abdel-Karim Kabariti, the newly appointed Jordanian prime minister, known for his street, allegedly by a gunman hostility to the Iraqi government. working at the Iraqi embassy.

Jordan was also humiliated when General Hussein Kamel and his brother, who had been the king's guests, were killed by President Saddam when they returned to Iraq in the mistaken belief that they had been granted a pardon.

Given Iraq's dependence on the road to Amman, it is unlikely that it would start using violence against King Hussein unless it had another outlet. At the same time, the Iraqi regime has had no qualms about using violence in Amman in the past. An Iraqi nuclear expert on his way to Libya was shot dead in the

The switch in alliances is not

popular among many Jordani-ans, even if pictures of President Saddam are no longer on display in Amman, as they were in the Gulf war. Jordanian business is also heavily dependent on exports to Iraq. A journalist who last year said 42 Jordanian politicians, businessmen and journalists were on the Iraqi payroll was immediately jailed for

three days and put on trial. Officials, aware of pro-Iraqi public opinion, say that Jor-danian pilots will not take part in the flights over Iraq. In addition, Western diplomats said

that the US aircraft will not fly directly from Jordan but via Saudi Arabia. The Pentagon said last month that the fighters would remain in Jordan until mid-June, while the US navy carrier group normally deployed in the Gulf is absent. It is unlikely that the US over-

flights are doing much good to Iragis in the south. The government in Bagh-dad has drained the marshes,

considered a bastion of resistance, of water by digging canals, and has burned towns and villages used by dissidents. All this has been monitored by satellite, but without provoking any international reaction.

South Lebanon on brink of war'

ROBERT FISK Beirut

A fierce exchange of fire be-tween Hizbollah guerrillas and Israeli troops across the Lebanese-Israeli frontier yesterday provoked warnings from both Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Sayed Has-san Nasrallah, the Hizbollah leader, of widespread military action in southern Lebanon.

Mr Peres visited northern Israel but found protesters blocking the roads to Kiryat Shmona after 18 Katyusha rockets had exploded around the town. The Israelis jeered Moshe Shahal, the Police Minister, but applauded Binyamin Netanyahu when the right-wing Likud party leader arrived - a reminder for Mr Peres of how Lebanon now threatens his electoral prospects.

Irish UN troops were last night trying to find out who set off the roadside romb in southern Lebanon that led to the worst outbreak of violence in the region for almost a month. The killing of Mazen Farhat, 14, outside the village of Bradchit and the wounding of two smaller children led to the Hizbollah reprisal attack on northern Israel which left 13 Israelis wounded -- and counter-retaliation by the Israelis, who fired 200 howitzer shells around the neighbouring villages.

Speaking at an army base outside Kiryat Shmona, Mr Peres, who denied the Israelis set off the bomb, refused to say what military action he contemplated: "We'll do what we have to ... This government does not have a policy of restraint."

Mr Nasrallah said any largescale Israeli military operation would reopen a general war in southern Lebanca.

First reports suggested the explosives that killed Mazen were placed on the Bradchit roadway by Israeli-backed militias to explode when Hizbollah guerrillas passed on their way to attack an Israeli artillery base south of the village. But local security sources said he had been playing with the bomb which killed him and that an investigation by the UN's Irish battalion had still not discovered who left the explosives.

Dozens killed in Turkey's new offensive on Kurds

Hopes of an early change in Turkey's Kurdish policy dimmed yesterday as the military revealed the extent of its annual spring offensive, launched five days ago. It has already claimed the lives of more than

130 combatants. Backed by a new array of US Black Hawk and Cobra heli-copters and an undiminished belief that force is the only way to solve the Kurdish problem, the military has once again sent thousands of troops up the steep valleys of south-east Turkey to search for and destroy any concentrations of the Kur-

distan Workers Party (PKK). Years of unrelenting Turkish military pressure have driven the PKK far back into the mountains, but somehow the PKK never meets that final end that the armed forces are once again predicting. The army said its assaults found at least one well-defended PKK mountain base fitted out with its own bakery, electricity-generating system, school and hostels.

fensive was north-east of Diyarbakir in pursuit of some 200 rebels, who the Turkish military said had recently crossed into Turkey after training. The PKK's main base is in Syria, but such training is usually undertaken in Iraq or Lebanon.

The new Turkish government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz also ordered planes to attack targets over the border in northern Iraq, where the PKK has successfully infiltrated Iraqi Kurd territory and established fortified bases.

"The message of the offensive is not just for the PKK.... It is for Iran and Syria as well," Milliyet newspaper said. "Turkey wants to show its strength."

Turkey has faced growing antagonism recently from both Iran and the Arab world over a range of issues, from sharing the waters of the Euphrates to a joint military training agreement that Turkey signed with Israel in February. Since the offensive started on

Saturday, Türkey has conceded.



Last post: Turkish soldiers paying tribute to their 30 fallen colleagues at a mass funeral in Diyarbakir

ment says that nearly 100 PKK

rebels have also died. The fighting looks certain to put an end to the unilateral ceasefire announced by the PKK in December, a ceasefire that Turkey officially rejected but which did appear sharply to reduce clashes and casualties.

Television images of troops scouring hillsides and shelling that at least 30 Turkish soldiers the snow-capped mountains state of emergency in the Southhave been killed. The govern- may also put paid to hopes that

the new government can somehow come up with a Kurdish policy that does not begin and

end with military campaigns. Barely three weeks ago, Mr Yilmaz, was telling reporters: "We must break down the mountains of our minds ... [the Kurdish problem] cannot be solved by military means alone."

He has promised to lift the

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system of 60,000 state-paid Kurdish "village guards". But his alternative proposals do little for civil rights and may turn the

guards into a regular militia. Newly released figures show that 19,000 people have been killed since the PKK launched its struggle in 1984 in the name of the Kurds, who number 15-20 per cent of Turkey's 65 million people. Until the end of party endorsed by pro-PKK

curity forces had been killed and a claimed 11,000 "terrorists". The rest were civilians. The PKK talks of a goal of federal and cultural rights, but few Turks believe that it has dropped its original goal of creating an independent Marxist state.

Support for the PKK appears to be decreasing inside Turkey. A Kurdish nationalist east and to review an irregular 1995, 3,000 members of the se-media won only 4 per cent of the

vote in the December elections, and a heavily-controlled semblance of normality has been imposed on most towns in

the Kurdish South-east. But the PKK problem is unlikely to go away, however hard Turkey clamps down. It has an ex-

Photograph: Reuter

tremely effective financial base among the half-million-strong Kurdish diaspora in Europe and is aided by covert support from Syria and other Turkish rivals.

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Violence threatens Korean elections

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

In life, Roh Soo-sok was one of many, a clever law student at a famous private college, a handsome 20-year-old who spent his spare time playing traditional Korean drums. But, overnight he became a secular saint, and the campus of Yonsei University, in the west of Seoul. became his shrine.

Huge banners draped over the university gates display poems eulogising him as "a young eagle". Students wear T-shirts bearing his image. Large paintings of a Christ-like Roh. his head wreathed in clouds, have been posted all over the campus, draped in black ribbons.

His coffin sits beneath an improvised tent, guarded around the clock by unsmiling youths with black headbands, white masks, and wooden batons.

There are offerings of incense and flowers and, carried around the campus by a spring breeze, a stronger and sweeter smell. Roh has been dead for almost two weeks and, despite the dry ice and the small electric cooler perched on top of his coffin.

he is beginning to decompose. South Korean students, once the most enthusiastic protesters in Asia, have been quiet recently. But, in an uneasy week for South Korea, with North Korean troops violating the armistice, and elections taking place tomorrow, there is again

a powerful sense of grievance. This morning, 12 days after his heart attack during a demonstration in Seoul, Mr

Roh's coffin will be hoisted on to the shoulders of his comrades who will carry him through the streets to a service in front of City Hall, before driving overnight to a cemetery in the southern city of Kwangju. That is the plan. As everyone understands, South Korea's vigilant riot police have other

The elections to the South Korean assembly will take place tomorrow in an atmosphere of tension. Nine years after the first direct presidential elections, democracy is established in South Korea. But the country still labours under unique pressures, as the weekend incursions by troops from the Communist North has emphasised.

This year, President Kim Young-sam, the first head of state in four decades with no military background, robbed the students of their greatest complaints against him. After resisting for three years, he finally consented to prosecuting two presidential predecessors, the former generals Chun Doohwan and Roh Tae-woo, on

charges of bribery and treason. But with a year still to run, Mr Kim's New Korea Party stands to lose its parliamentary majority tomorrow. According to students at Yonsei, the death of



College hero: Seoul students guarding the coffin of Roh Soo-sok, who died in a demonstration

new intolerance fostered by the insecurity of the South Korean leadership.

One of the biggest question marks hanging over the Presi-dent is his indebtedness to the massive, illegal slush fund accumulated by presidents Chun and Roh. Opposition leaders say Mr Kim received dirty money for his 1988 election campaign. At the demonstration on which Roh collapsed and died, this was one of the complaints.

An autopsy concluded Mr Roh had died of heart failure, but his body bore numerous bruises apparently inflicted by the police. "I have been in Roh Soo-sok is a symbol of a before, said Hwang Sang-woo, conian National Security Law.

of the Yonsei Student Union, "but that time they were unprecedentedly harsh." He added: "Nothing will persuade me the police were not the direct cause of his death."

Students are not the only

group to detect intolerance in the government. Foreign journalists in Seoul recently sent a protest letter to the President's aides after the correspondent for the Australian Financial Review was refused a visa for writing articles displeasing to the government. Although he was jailed as a dissident, the President's government continues to prosecute left-wing writers many fights with the police and academics under a dra-

On Monday, the police in Kwangju, the heartland of Korean anti-establishment protest, announced their resolve to "strongly confront" student protests, "to ensure the 15th parliamentary election is carried out in a happy, fair and open en-vironment." But the students in Seoul are also resolved. Outside the Yonsei campus, a few yards from his decaying body, a banner bears a poem entitled "The Fall Of A Young Eagle":

Roh Soo-sok, who beat the drum Came back to us dead, with his heart cold and numb Dream sweetly, friend, beneath the white sheet, As we take in our own hands the

drum you once beat.

IN BRIEF

Yeltsin clashes with Poles over Nato

Moscow — President Boris Yeltsin and his visiting Polish counterpart. Aleksander Kwasniewski, failed at their first-ever summit yesterday to resolve disagreements over Poland's desire to init yesteroay to resolve disagreements over rotations desire to join Nato. Mr Yelisin said the sides simply agreed to disagree, adding that he did not have much hope of reaching a compromise. We both agree that we need to continue our negotiations and look for a resolve of solving the markless of malarity for the same of solving the markless of malarity for the same of solving the markless of malarity for the same of solving the markless of malarity for the same of solving the markless of malarity for the same of solving the markless of malarity for the ma and look for a way of solving the problem of understanding between Nato and Russia," he said.

Tibet protest mars Chinese PM's visit

Paris — Over 200 French parliamentarians, seizing on a controversial official visit by the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng, called on Peking to pull out of Tibet and said the UN should take up the issue. The deputies and senators accused China of being responsible for 1.5 million deaths since Peking occupied Tibet

Finns starved of drink by protest strike

Helsinki — Most of Finland's 250 off licences closed yesterday when staff walked out in protest against planned cutbacks by the management. The one-day strike by 1.700 workers at the state-run alcohol monopoly, Alko, shut all but 15 smaller stores in runal areas

Africa proclaimed nuclear-free zone

Cairo — The world's five recognised nuclear powers will sign a treaty in Cairo tomorrow declaring Africa a zone free of nuclear weapons and prohibiting nuclear testing on the continent, Egypt's Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Germans pay more for their letters

Bonn - The German Post Office said yesterday that it plans to raise the cost of mailing a standard letter by 10 pfennig to 1.10 marks (about 50p).

Victory parade returns to Russia

Moscow — Russian soldiers will parade across Red Square to celebrate Victory Day on 9 May for the first time in six years, a military spokesman said yesterday. The tradition was suspended in 1991 as the Soviet Union neared collapse.

AP

Court questions ban on Rushdie's tome

New Delhi - A court in Delhi ordered India's government to explain why it ordered a halt to the sale of Salman Rushdie's latest novel. The Moor's Last Sigh.

AP Photograph: AP

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Minister responsible for Hong Kong, has confirmed that China wants Britain to agree to a discreet private ceremony to mark the end of colonial rule and Peking's resumption of sovereignty over the territory

China originally insisted that it would not accept the Governor, Chris Patten, having any part in the handover ceremony because he is viewed as a "criminal through the ages". In private talks, Britain remained adamant that China could not

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on for some months, but the level of the stalemate was only openly acknowledged in an interview with Mr Hanley which appeared in the South China Morning Post yesterday. "We believe this is a unique moment in history that will be of great interest to the world, but China wants it not so open - a little more businesslike, shall we

say," he was quoted as saying. It is reliably understood that China simply wants officials to meet in a private room in Hong Kong's City Hall, a functional

dictate who would participate building on the harbour side not want the ceremony to revon behalf of the outgoing which is frequently used for el in the colonial legacy, but The talks have been going swearing-in of the Governor. tury and a half of British rule.

China seems to be planning a closed-door event at the stroke of midnight on 30 June 1997, followed by a lavish public celebration the next day once the British have left. Indeed, 1 July will become a permanent public holiday in Hong Kong to celebrate the resumption of Chinese rule.

Britain has made no secret of the fact that it is looking for a "dignified" ceremony at which it could hand over its last major colonial possession with some honour. Mr Patten does

official occasions such as the acknowledge more than a cen-

There has been constant speculation in the Hong Kong media about who would preside over the ceremony. Frequent references are made to Prince Charles, who has visited Hong Kong more often than any other senior royal.

It has also been suggested that China's patriarch, Deng Xiaoping, would fulfil his oftenstated wish to visit Hong Kong after it returned to Chinese sovereignty, although reports about the poor state of his health make this unlikely.

China's determination to have nothing to do with Mr Patten, who is held responsible for introducing democratic reforms hated by China, has reached such a pitch that elaborate precautions are taken to ensure that no Chinese official even attends any of the numerous events at which the Governor is

Lu Ping, China's most senior official responsible for Hong Kong affairs, will be making one of his rare visits to the

territory later this week. He has studiously ignored Mr Patten's offer of a meeting and has so far declined to meet any other government officials.

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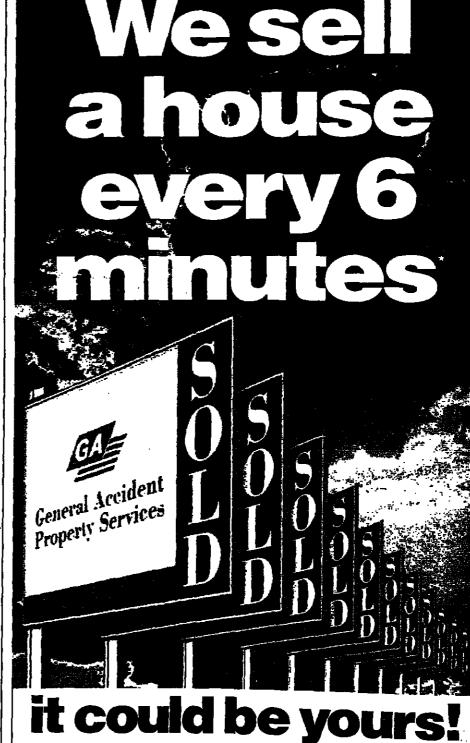
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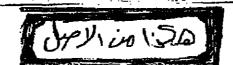
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When Sean Lennoy discovered his wife was having an affair, a court heard last month, he decided to impose upon her lover the most humiliating punishment he could imagine. He held his rival down and rubbed

Immac hair remover into his head. Unfortunately for Mr Lennoy, his rival regrew stubble after four days. But the fact that this was held to be the ultimate embarrassment shows the degree to which hair loss among men is still seen as stigmatised.

In recognition, or perhaps in exploitation, of this tomorrow sees the first ever Hair Grower of the Year Award at the Savoy Hotel in London, where one of six finalists will receive a £10,000 cheque for having "grown back the most hair on a previously bald head".

The competition, organised by the two-year-old Hair Growers Club, has monitored entrants worldwide in their year-long "race" to re-thatch their scalps without the aid of plastic

There can be no doubt whatsoever that, for the majority of men, baldness is now an option and not an irrevocable problem," says Andy Bryant, author of *The Baldness Cure* and previously best known for undergoing a vasectomy without anaesthetic.

"We know how to grow back hair on bald heads," he says. "This is a bit like the Wright brothers with their first 59second flight - it destroys the myth hat it cannot be done, perpetuated by ested interests and people with closed

Unfortunately, for the vast majory of those with thinning thatches, 59-second flight with the right brothers is more likely tan a return of their locks. tne in three men between te ages of 20 and 40 will hve noticeable hair thinmg or bald patches and arund eight million men in3ritain are balding to sone degree.

here are a number of cuses, but the principi one is male patten baldness, caused by an over-sensitivity totte male hormone teteterone. It is

stress, poor lifestyle and poor nutrition British Medicines Control Agency. It may also contribute.

There are more temporary forms of baldness, such as alopecia areata, a disease of the scalp in which baldness is patchy. This can develop into alopecia totalis, loss of all scalp hair.

Few men welcome the first sprinkling of hairs on their pillow, mostly. according to experts, because it is seen as an obvious sign of ageing. But the idea of baldness as a psychological disadvantage recently received scientific backing with a report in the British Journal of Psychology.

"Far from being a laughing matter, male hair loss is clearly associated with a marked decrease in psychological well-being," said the report, entitled Does Fortune Favour the Bald? It claimed bald men feel more depressed. are more unsociable and feel much less attractive. And the younger the man, the report said, the worse he felt.

This goes some way to explaining why the market for hair-loss products is flourishing, with worried men spending an estimated £100m a year, despite widespread cynicism about the efficacy of such "cures".

Few have any degree of official backing. Minoxidil, sold under the brand name Regaine, is the only treatment to have satisfied the American FDA that it can be marketed as a drug

thought to have a genetic link, while and licensed as a medicine by the Natural Hair Products company. claims to show an improvement in a Bryan Gould. third of all patients, but it has to be taken continuously or the scalp will quickly return to the stage of baldness

that would have occurred anyway.

Less orthodox "cures" have included Baby Bio, Marmite and Balti curry mix - all to be rubbed into the scalp. (It has not been noted whether these also inadvertently provide an effective contraceptive.) And in between are a whole spectrum of "cures" that promise to increase circulation to the scalp, adjust the hair growth/loss cycle, regulate the sebaceous glands and stimulate the bair

According to a spokesman for the Hair Grower awards, the most popular method among the six finalists (only one of whom had succumbed to a transplant - on the only area of his scalp where hair no longer grew) was that of a lifestyle change encompassing a high water content diet, vitamin supplements, stress management and inversion. Or hanging upside

This method, espoused by Andy

claimed to have achieved a 50 per cent re-growth for the ex-Labour MP

Hanging upside down apparently counter-acts the effects of "vaso-dilation" whereby blood vessels constrict through stress, eventually affecting circulation to the scalp, and cause hair loss. This may indeed have been the case, although Mr Gould admitted that the improvement in his hair could

have been a "coincidence". But not everyone is as satisfied by their "miracle cures". The Advertising Standards Authority says that com-plaints about hair loss treatment are on the increase. They are, however, still low - the authority says that many men do not like to complain because they tend to attribute the fail-

ure of treatment to themselves. The levels to which men will go to avoid baldness is perhaps best exemplified by the available plastic surgery, the hest known method of which is Micrografting. This is where hair is moved to areas where it will fall out, ie the temples and crown. A more extreme method is scalp reduction, where the central area of baldness is "cut out" and the edges of skin pulled

> But no method shricks of serious desperation more than tissue expansion_

involves the insertion of silicone balloons under the scalp, which are gently expanded over three months, the aim being to create extra hair-bearing skin, until the head ends up bulging. When the balloons are removed the baid area is cut out and the stretched

downside is the £5,000 it will cost ... and the three months spent in hiding.
According to Sarah Cremer, style and grooming editor of Men's Health magazine, men's magazines have to be very careful" when talking about hair products, for fear that desperate men will regard articles as an endorsement and rush out to try the products But she believes men are getting better at coping with baldness, largely because of the increasing presence of

high-profile role models.

They're getting the hang of the fact that a scrape-over is not the way to do it, that it's much better to go short and stay short," Ms Cremer says. "I think people like Andre Agassi and Bruce Willis help because you have positive images of balding men who are seen to be very sexy. Someone like Sean Connery is balding and still incredibly

And that, apparently is the root of the problem. For the majority of men, a full head of hair is still inextricably bound up with the idea of youth, virility and ultimately attractiveness. Until those perceptions change, the market for scalp fertilisers of all sorts is likely to stay as buoyant as ever.

"It's ironic really in that most surveys show that women don't care if men are balding," says Ms Cremer. Much more likely to be a turn-off is the scrapeover, the spray-on hair in an aerosol,

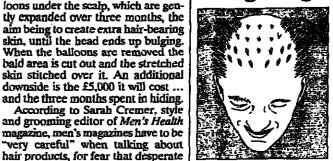
the badly fitting toupee, or worse - an awful, self-conscious obsession with hair loss. Learn to love your pate, says Ms Cremer, and be loved in return. "I think unless they're terribly disturbed

> do it gracefully, keep their hair very

> > carry it off."

Keep your hair on: five 'cures'

Micrografting



Micrografting will not create a dense mane, but offers hope to the receding hairline. A strip of hair-bearing skin taken from the back of the head is divided into thousands of tiny plugs which are "replanted" into lasered holes. Within 25 days the transplanted hair falls out leaving the live follicle from which the final hair will grow two or three months later. The method works best with curly hair which conceals the scalp. Micrografts cost £8 to £10 each.

Scalp reduction



At between £1,200 and £1,500 the minimisation of extensive baldness comes at a high price, but scalo reduction boasts instant results. Usually carried out under a local anaesthetic, the central area of baldness is cut out and the edges of scalp drawn up and stitched together, immediately covering more of the head with hair. A drawback is an ugly scar which takes seven to 10 days to

The curry miracle



A West Midlands builder was talked into rubbing curry on to his bald patch by a friend who made the cure out of Indian herbs. After a week of applying the mixture twice a day, Tim Deeley from Sedgley found tufts of blond hair sprouting where there had been none for 12 years. On a Radio 5 chat show one Welshman was so convinced of the miraculous qualities of a certain curry that he refused to make his secret public so that he

Take the tablets



Available over the counter, Regaine is the only drug to have shown potential for regrowth. Its manufacturers claim one-third of users can expect some results, while a lucky 8 per cent will enjoy "dense regrowth". However, regrown hair tends to be fluffy and will fall out if the treatment is stopped - a costly commitment at £25.95 per month. An American scientific journal commented: "As a whole, the amount of hair regrowth is modest at best."

Head over heels



The patient hangs from The Inverter for a few seconds each day as part of a £360 programme that also includes lessons in stress management, diet and exercise. Increased supply of blood to the head and scalp is supposed to stimulate hair growth, as demonstrated by Bryan Gould who experienced new hair growth after three months of the head over heels treatment.

Research by Anna Davies

Between the devil and the bishops

There seems to be a continuing lack of charity in the internecine struggle between the two Catholic newspapers the Universe and the Catholic Herald.



yours

Devil: A Biography, to be published next week. The Universe weighed in saying that Stanford was writing an autobiography of the devil". (Oscar Wilde lives on in religious publications). Stanford and his publisher, Heine-

Peter Stanford

(left), former editor of the Herald, has

inst written The

mann, were not amused and demanded an apology from the Universe. Jo Kelly, editor of the Universe (a wonderful title, that), promised one would be forthcoming. In the Universe's diary column the following apology duly appeared: "An apology. In a recent edition of The Universe I said former Catholic Herald edifor Peter Stanford was writing an autosingraphy of the devil. As he has pointed ut, Mr Stanford is in fact not the devil. le is merely writing his biography. So. reaking with our normal custom, we pologise grudgingly to Beelzebub for

te embarrassment caused." Stanford himself was somewhat tken aback, but could find himself in wrse trouble. Catholics and Sex, one of is earlier works, is just about to be polished in Polish. That means that th Pope might read it," he says, "and I night get excommunicated. That is an awal-lot worse than being called the ded by the English bishops."

Music to the producer's ears

Sue Voodford, the wife of the media mogi and Labour peer Lord Hollick, is abut to try her hand at co-produc-

Action producer at Granada who is on the board of Talawa, Britain's leading black theatre company, has jointly bought the rights to A Raisin in the Sun with Yvonne Brewster, the theatre's Jamaican-born artistic director, and the American theatre director, Lisa Forell. The musical was adapted by Lorraine Hansberry, with music by Judd Woldin, from the original award-winning 1959 play about a ghetto family a white neighbourhood. It was a success ence is purgatory. To go to three seems in the US but has never before been remarkably like sado-masochism. But

optimistic and hopes it will be out next year. "This could be something that is a real success. It's going to show the wonderful black talent that we have in this country."

An expensive lesson in unity

that comes into money and moves into To attend one teachers' union confer-

Water of the second of the second sec

ing a musical. The former World in performed in Britain. Sue Woodford is Hank Roberts, the former president of Brent National Union of Teachers, has spent his entire Easter and a large chunk of his savings doing just that on behalf of his cross-union pressure group, Professional Unity 2000. The aim of the group is to unify all the teaching unions. The road to unity is long and expensive. "I started in London." says Mr Roberts, "where I took a cab to Torquay for £150 for the ATL conference and stayed overnight. I then had to return to London, go to Cardiff for the NUT conference for two nights, after which I am catching the plane to Glas-gow for the NASUWT conference where I'll probably stay for two more nights. Then I have to fly back to London again." The whole shebang will cost him £600. Greater love for his profession hath no man.

The bottom line on cellulite

With some of the press filling space on a quiet week in-depth investigations into the state of Princess Diana's legs, it was only to be expected that vesterday after-



noon's programme on Carlton TV's Capital Woman should do its own grope into cellulite.

"What is it," asked the presenter, "that every woman is paranoid about. that even Pamela Anderson cannot avoid, that doctors won't even acknowledge, and that cannot be found in any medical textbook? Well, the answer is cellulite. But is it, as some doctors say, a figment of our imagination - or simply a Frenchwoman's elegant word for fat?" Paranoid, figments, fat! Harsh words from the presenter, one Julia Carling (above), but these medical matters demand plain

Eagle Eye

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It all begins in the classroom

Easter teacher union conferences are trarely enlightened occasions. They are, in their way, mirrors of education debates in Parliament. They ring old, cracked bells, fighting the battles of the day before yesterday and ignoring the opportunities and challenges of the future. They ignore, in other words, the children. And yet, this spring, there is a prevalent sense that the urgency of classcom improvement has become a focus of national agreement

After the tumult of change in recent years, there is a glimmering of national consensus on education. It centres on the need, recognised by teachers, parents and politicians alike, to make improved classroom teaching the beginning and end of education policy. Recent speeches by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary. and her Labour shadow, David Blunkett, have exuded moderation. Stripped of ritual obeisance to their parties' sacred cows (comprehensives and choice), they have, in fact, been variations on the same theme:

improvement starts in the classroom. It was not just Mr Blunkett's effort to sign Labour up to private finance for schools when he spoke to the NUT the other day, Nor was it Mrs Shephard's discovery, after the rhetorical extremism of her predecessor John Patten, that teachers have to be co-opted rather than battered. They both agree that the structure of the schools, even how they are financed, matters less than how minds are shaped, facts and techniques learnt and how the achievement of pupils is assessed

and registered. The broad line of agreement says: let us stick with common secondary schools for the majority at 11-plus and focus instead on the qualities of the pupils coming into them and the skills and attitudes of the pupils completing a core curriculum at age 16. Other things, such as nursery provision, the shape of the 16-19

course offering and the need to refashion vocational education - these are important. But what is taught and how it is assessed matter more than where.

Most people see that the national curriculum needs to be pared back to a core of numeracy and literacy, that pupils need to be regularly tested. Who now dissents from the national objective of striving to make all 16-year-olds better readers, better users of the languages of maths, better thinkers, better equipped to make a living and go forward to learn

more in this ever-changing world?

That ambition can only be realised at the chalkface by dedicated teachers. They need to be backed up (although this will all too often be an aspiration rather than a reality) by parental enthusiasm.

Their training ought not to stop, or even start, in specialist training colleges but rely instead on the experience of accom-

plished educators.

Good teachers need good inspectors, whose voice has to be much more nuanced and emollient than the one Chris Woodhead of the Office of Educational Standards has been using lately. Inspectors, themselves at the acme of professionalism, should be supporting and nurturing good teaching (and so elimi-nating bad). There is no need for them to behave like a gang of heavy-booted police-men out to maximise their convictions.

Teaching has, once again, to become a dignified activity, carried out by professionals. That professionalism ought to be captured by the creation of a general teaching council, akin to the General Medical Council, is long overdue. The amount teachers get paid has to be correlated with their classroom performance and both of those with how the public esteems them. There is now solid agreement, across the parties, across the country, that pay, performance and esteem should all now be rising.

The need to prevent another Chernobyl

The explosion and fire at the Chernobyl I nuclear power station a decade ago was a modern horror. According to the World Health Organisation, the total amount of radioactivity released in the disaster was 200 times more than the combined fallout from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The precise death toll will never be known, though Western scientists believe many thousands will eventually die because they suffered exposure to radiation.

Given these facts, why, as the 10th anniversary of the disaster approaches, does the Chernobyl plant remain open? Not only that, but 15 Chernobyl-style reactors continue to operate in the former Soviet Union-11 in Russia and two each in Ukraine and Lithuania. The International Atomic Energy Agency has said clearly that Chernobyl-style RBMK reactors represent a much greater safety risk than other types used in nuclear power generation. Most Western nuclear experts regard the RBMK, an exclusively Soviet model, as inherently

Design flaws were only part of the explanation for the Chernobyl disaster. The other was the fact that, in an operation which still boggles the mind, technicians at the plant were conducting experiments in which safety systems were shut down. How far have safety procedures improved since then? Not far made the basis of renewing trust.

enough. Last November, fuel rods were removed from one of Chernobyl's two working reactors. Their hermetic seal was broken and an employee was exposed to

Despite compelling arguments for closing down Chernobyl, there is official resistance. Ukraine authorities say the plant supplies 7 per cent of the country's energy and provides jobs for 30,000 people. They contend, unconvincingly, that Chernobyl has enjoyed an excellent, accident-free record in recent years. Since the government has in fact promised to close the plant by 2000 – a pledge repeated yesterday – it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the real reason for Ukrainian procrastination is a desire to extract as much money as possible from the West to cover the costs involved.

The Group of Seven industrialised countries has offered about £2bn in aid. That is a generous sum. If the West is to offer more, the Ukrainian authorities need to show they are serious about closing the plant - ideally, before 2000. What is needed is a programme for repairing and eventually shutting down every one of these Chernobyl-type reactors. The financial costs will be high. Yet at a time when relations between the West and Russia have hit choppy water, making a well-financed programme of closing the remaining reactors could be



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

the contrary, that must be its mise-en-scène. Tony Blair, Ann

Widdecombe and all the rest of

us will mix success with failure,

but we must keep the ideal before

us and know that the essence of

repentance and forgiveness is

that we may go on and on with

the cycle and so progress is made.

Otherwise we may as well give up

and then it is not only the polit-

ical outlook that will be truly

without hope.
The Rev BEN HOPKINSON

Sir: On 9 April, 51 years ago,

young Dietrich Bonhoeffer was

hanged in a Nazi concentration

camp. For Bonhoeffer, Christian

theologian conspiring to murderthe head of the German state, the

question of political involvement leading to "muddled hands and

moral ambiguity" (leading article,

The ultimate question for a

responsible person to ask is not

how he is to extricate himself

heroically from the affair, but

how the coming generation is to

live. It is only from this question,

with its responsibility towards history, that fruitful solutions

can come, even if for the time

being they are very humiliating

murder is ever justified outside

the most extreme boundary situ-

ation, but that what constitutes "a

true Christian, one who actually

live[s] a life of love and self-sac-

rifice" is more complicated than

the theology of your leading arti-

The Rev DOUGLAS DETIMER

Exeter, Devon

The point is not that political

(After Ten Years, 1942).

de allows.

8 April) was deeply relevant.

Stainton, Middlesbrough

Christians bring honesty to Westminster

Sir: Your suggestion that a true Christian could not play a full part in politics ("Anyone can play Bible games", 8 April) denies the reality of any Christian's daily life. Political service does of course demand compromise but what family or business career does not also require regular surrendering of will to others' preferences?

A Christian politician should not compromise essential principles but must always be ready to be flexible over tactics. For example, a Christian may want to limit access to abortion but realising that the current parliament is not ready for such legislation may prefer to press for an extension of adoption rights to ensure full care for babies carried to full-

Today's political landscape requires more Christian involvement and I hope that believers would bring a sense of honesty and probity that Westminster is ed of lacking. Parliament as a whole would benefit if Members attacked each other less and focused on policy. All evidence suggests the public would appreciate this as well. Tony Blair could make a start by being a little bit more generous to other Christians who have been led by the Holy Spirit into other parties.

TIM MONTGOMERIE Director of Fellowship Conservative Christian Fellowship

Not the last night train to Milan

Sir. John Mills (letter, 5 April) sells the timetable: any large

2.27pm, change in Brussels, and International accept credit card

Sir. So no true Christian would survive in politics (8 April). So much for the many members of the Lords and Commons who have been sincere followers of

can still go to Italy in style. There

are now two equivalents of the

old night train to Milan. Leave

Waterloo at 5.15pm, cross to

Paris and dine there. Arrive at

8.45am. Or leave Waterloo at

Any branch of Thomas Cook

on to Venice at weekends).

arrive at 7.10am (the sleepers go bookings.

Christ and served their parties and the country with distinction.

One might as well say that no true Christian could survive in the City of London or in the boardroom of a major company because difficult decisions have to be made in grey areas at the limits of what is legally possible. If a person is a Christian they will take that faith with them into all areas of their life, it will govern their attitudes, inform their thought and motivate their

Our culture has been formed out of the contribution of many such people. There will be many reasons why a person is drawn to a political party but to assume that a person of faith should not take that faith into account in the process or that he should be silent about his underlying moti-

STUART MUSTOW Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

Sir. "What is truth? said jesting Pilate; and would not stay for an answer." (Bacon: Of Truth). You are probably right to say (leading article, 8 April) that Tony Blair is taking a risk in playing the Christian card (if that is what he has done) but to say that "no true Christian, one who actually lived a life of love and self sacrifice, would survive in politics" is not only gloomy but also muddled

What is a true Christian? You seem to be proposing a definition and then saying that this cannot be attempted in the hurly-burly of

Many of us would say that, on

British railway station sells the

tickets and books the berths. The

problem has been that most

travel agents don't book on

trains, but things are better now

BEN HAINES

Nightmares of the meat trade

packed immediately for distri Sir. In view of the panic over bution. BSE, what surprises me is that more people are not made unwell weekly basis, but after one da were coated with grease an through the consumption of beef and its by-products. meat and smelt awful. The on

A number of years ago I worked in various capacities for a meat packer who supplied a major retailer of frozen foods.

Working conditions could be charitably described as ghastly, but I recall the following incidents with particular affection: 1) A butcher chopped his fin-

ger off while cutting meat. The "slab" was wiped down with a damp cloth, while the missing digit was located amongst the joints and popped in a brown bag to accompany the butcher to the local hospital.

2) Mince was processed and packed in different sections of

the factory; the only route from one to the other was along the public highway. A 'dolly" containing six trays of mince, each weighing about 25lbs, toppled over in the road and was scraped up and

clean overalls were given out the morning and had to be returned after the visit. 4) The "dollies" contains mince and minced meat forpa food were not labelled on becoccasion and a guess made side

exception was the day the ma

aging director of our main cotomer visited the factory, whi

3) Overalls were changed on

ken vended

MINISH TO

le laher argue

5) Meat "on the turn" was rule tinely chosen for export to the many on the basis that if i pas off, we could blame the hadias. If the meat had "turned", twas sponged with a detergent toda-

guise the smell. Come to think of it, as tiere have been few BSE cases in Sermany, perhaps the detergut is

I M Davies Ones Leicster

High price of techno-farming

Sir: The costly side-effects of agrotechnical farming and the adulteration of our food go even deeper than your coverage acknowledges ("Can British farming go green?", 9 April).

The new technofix, genetic engineering, will soon be obliging us to buy soya bean and cooking oils which have been genetically modified for herbicide resistance In all probability, these genes have already escaped from freely pollinating crops such as oilseed rape into their wild relatives growing in the hedgerows. This same resistance will also be transferred into related weed varieties, which will render the original her-

bicides useless. Meanwhile, "conventional" herbicides are leaving fields of maize stubble denuded of protective ground cover throughout the winter months and sluicing huge amounts of herbicide-laced topsoil into our rivers. These same chemicals then enter our drinking-water supplies

MARTIN HUGHES-JONES Mid Devon Green Party

Food from the global greenhouse

Sir: The articles in part hree of "Our scorched earth" (£ April): take a very one-sided view of the role of carbon dioxide in he atmosphere. There is no mertion that carbon dioxide is, with vater, the main food of green plans, and that increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the ai increases the rate of growth of pants.

There is no mentior also of the fact that raising temperature in general increases rate of growth. So, although a rise of sea level, if it takes place, would ake land out of cultivation, the productivity of the remainder should be increased.

Instead of regarding carbon dioxide as a poison it would be more sensible to try to ascertain what is its optimum concentration in the air. Have we any reason to think that the present level is ideal? Is it not possible that an equilibrium sould be that an equilibrium could be struck at a higher level with more production of carbon dioxide being balanced by higher extraction by the quicker-growing plants, producing more food?

countries, Britain included. Who

then can be complacent enough to be certain of their integrity in

a country broken and ravaged by Nazi occupation? We were for-

tunate here in Britain - we were

Dr Roger James Southsea. Hampshire

No offence, existentially speaking

A most extraordinary case is going on in the High Court in which a motorist is being prosecuted for more than 1,000 parking offences. Here is an extract from yesterday's

Counsel: Can you tell us what your Defendant: Yes, I can. Counsel: Then please do so.

Defendant: My name is Sidney Delba, I am 46 years old, I work as a chartered accountant, I am married with two children, I like country and western music, and I am not ashamed of it ... Judge: Thank you, Mr Delba. Please

confine yourself to answering the question. That is all you need to do in a British court of law. Defendant: Thank you, my lord. Counsel: Now, Mr Delba, can you tell us what happened on the after-noon of 16 July 1995?

[4 long pause]
Judge: Well, will you therefore do

Defendant: Yes, I can.

Defendant: Do so what, my lord? Judge: Tell us what happened on the afternoon of 16 July 1995? Defendant: Of course, my lord. I did not know that learned counsel wanted me to tell you. All I knew



MILES KINGTON

was that he asked if I was able to tell him. "Can you tell us ... ?" he asked. "Yes, I can," I said. Having told him of my ability to do so, I thought my answer had come to an end. Bearing in mind your lordship's advice ..

Judge: Listen to me, you little whelp. There are many people like you who have sought to make fun of British justice. And it is very easy. We wear ridiculous clothes, we wear laughable wigs and we talk in a kind of English that has never been heard in the street. We know all that. We make fun of it ourselves. So when someone like you comes along and does the same, we are not impressed. Are you with me, chuck?

Defendant: Yes, my lord. Counsel: Now, can you tell us what happened on the afternoon of 16 in Kensington High Street in London. Counsel: And when did you return

Defendant: No. Counsel: When, then? Defendant: I returned to pick it up two years later.

to pick it up? The same day?

Counsel: Was it still there? Defendant: In essence, yes. Counsel: Could you explain to the court what you mean by in essence?

Defendant: I mean it in the Sartrean Counsel: Could explain to the court what the Sartrean sense of essence

Defendant: No. Judge: Why not, Mr Delba? Defendant: My lord, Jean-Paul Sartre wrote several long books trying to explain the same thing, such as his seminal work Being and Nothingness, and failed to clear it up, so I hardly feel that in a couple of minutes here I shall achieve what Sartre failed to do in his lifetime.

Judge: Then why did you invoke the Froggy philosopher in the first place? Defendant: Because, my lord, when I saw the condition of my car after two years, when I saw what the rain

and the weather had done to it, and

the vandals of London W8, and the aphids descending from the lime trees above, I suddenly felt for the time what Sartre meant by Being and Nothingness. My car existed, yes, but its car qualities, its essential carness, had gone.

Judge: I don't know what you're talking about.

Defendant: This is quite a common initial reaction to existential thinking, my lord.

Counsel: So, to sum up, you left your car for two years in a parking place in Kensington and then, when you came to collect it, left it there? Defendant: Yes.

Counsel: Did you not end up owing hundreds of pounds in parking fines? Defendant: No. I had parked in a

Disabled Only parking space.

Judge: Ah! And are you, in fact, disabled? Defendant: In essence, yes. ludge: In what sense?

Defendant: In a Heideggerian sense, my lord. Judge: Lord save us. Let us adjourn the court for an hour while I get some fresh air and read some PG Wodehouse to regain my sanity.

More of this fascinating case

Progress at Holloway prison

Sir: Following your article of 2 April concerning Holloway and the Board of Visitors' report, I would like to set the record straight

that Eurotunnel and British Rail The prisoner who attended court in her night clothes did so after refusing to wear her own clothes, which were available to London SE4 her, even after attempts by staff to persuade her to do so. We have acknowledged that

Holloway has faced considerable difficulties and we have also made it clear that action has been and is being taken to deal with the problems. Extra staff have been brought in to improve the regime and increase efficiency, new pest control and cleaning programmes are under ng programmes are under way and much progress is being

> RICHARD TILT Director General **HM Prison Service** London SW1

Upside down map-reading

Sir: Your report (6 April) on the first of a series of Ordnance Survey maps designed for cyclists explains that it was made possible by the "sophistication of its computer mapping techniques".
While applauding this venture I had hoped that OS would by now have employed such skills to repeat on the back of their maps the same area but with reversed legend so that south is at the top. It would make driving down from Scotland and up to Hampshire so much easier without standing on one's head in the car trying to transpose left and right.

ROBERT VINCENT

Tiverton, Devon

Poles were Holocaust victims too

Sir: Anyone without a detailed knowledge of the history of the Second World War, on reading your editorial (8 April) would gain the impression that the Poles were second only to the Nazis in their determination to destroy the Jewish people. What a gross calumny. It is too often forgotten that the Poles (as a Siavonic people) were also categorised by the Nazis as sub-human and as a result millions of Christian Poles met their deaths in Auschwitz alongside their Jewish compatriots.

Anti-Semitism undoubtedly existed in Poland before the war, but it was also by no means unknown in other European

Of course the march of the Polish skinheads was a disgusting exhibition which should have been roundly condemned by the

Polish government and clergy, but to use these facts to sugge wholesale national involvement in the Holocaust is a repugnan defamation of a courageous an long-suffering nation. SUSAN JAROS

never put to that test.

Melrose, Roxburghshi

me on sur

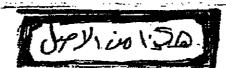
Motor mouth

Sir: Once again (Letters, 6 April) a representative of the AA has been given the opportunity of pronouncing on transport policy. There is a widespread misconception that the views of the AA

reflect those of its membe who, in fact, have no means influencing its pronouncemen The AA should stick to its profr function of helping motoristin trouble.

Westcliff-on-Sea, Hex

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephon number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) Andover, Hampshire | Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

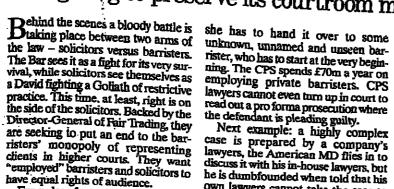


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are: ...

Barristers: a law unto themselves

In fighting to preserve its courtroom monopoly, the Bar stands firmly in the way of needed reforms



Examples of current practice: a specialist solicitor beavering away in the fire regulations department devotes his whole life to prosecuting restaurants and offices. A boring job, perhaps, but he knows his onions like no one else. He can appear in the magistrates' court as prosecutor, but when it comes to an as prosecution, but when it comes to an appeal he has to brief a private barrister who probably knows next to nothing about fire regulations. He is unlikely even to speak to the barrister who takes over. Even if he does, there is a 50-50 chance that some other bar-

ster will turn up in court on the day.

If the fate of the fire regulator does not impress, look at the Crown Prosecution Service, which is the main bone of contention, as it employs 650 barris-ters and 1,750 solicitors, none of whom can appear in any higher court. A CPS lawyer, possibly herself a barrister, makes the crucial decision to prosecute, draws up the brief, selects witnesses and shapes the case. But if it goes to jury,

rister, who has to start at the very beginning. The CPS spends £70m a year on employing private barristers. CPS lawyers cannot even turn up in court to read out a pro forma prosecution where

the defendant is pleading guilty.

Next example: a highly complex case is prepared by a company's lawyers, the American MD flies in to discuss it with his in-house lawyers, but he is dumbfounded when told that his own lawyers cannot take the case to court. An outside barrister will have to be briefed and the company may not even know which barrister will be available on the day.

However, the Bar Council is fighting to hold on to this monopoly and it looks almost certain to succeed. Until now, using all its well-honed delaying, filibustering and heel-dragging techniques, it has caused six years to pass since Parliament voted for reform of this archaic system. In 1990, Parliament wisely passed the Courts and Legal Services Act to find "new and better ways" of providing legal services, which included letting more solicitors appear in court. A committee was set up to advise and, although much delayed by barristers' rearguard action, finally reported last autumn. (It was split down the middle until the chairman. judge and therefore a barrister, threw his casting vote with the barristers, to the fury of the solicitors.)

Since then, the four senior judges



Why do barristers feel the need for special protection?

and the Lord Chancellor have been deliberating (very slowly). Each one of them has a veto on reform, so it will take just one to refuse for it to fall. Last week, the Independent revealed that Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, is strongly defending barristers' exclusive rights. That means the judges will probably overrule Parliament's clear intent to widen rights of audience. "Their blocking of the will of Parliament to make this reform is lit-tle short of a public scandal," says Walter Merricks of the Law Society.

The former chairman of the Bar, Peter Goldsmith QC, as you would expect, makes a fine fist of defending barristers. "Though I suppose," he said a trifle wearily, "you may be minded to accuse the Bar of defending restrictive practices?" He talked lottily of the need for checks and balances in a democratic society, while I tried to put aside baser thoughts of barristers' cheques and bank balances.

The citizen needs protection against the over-mighty state," he said. "The more serious cases need an independent mind as a safeguard against abuse." It is, he said, a mat-ter of independence and integrity. I tried not to think of the integrity of the independent barristers' minds who prosecuted the Guildford Four and Judith Ward or who argued in court that the Matrix Churchill defendants had no right of access to crucial government documents.

In reality, all barristers and solicitors are employed, whether by the day on the taxi rank, or by annual salary. Their independence of mind resides within their own integrity. As David Pannick QC has written, there are plenty of employed lawyers who spend their time telling their employers unwelcome legal troths, while some other "independent" barristers may earn their money telling clients what they want to hear.

I am not a conspiracy theorist, but the conspiracy of the Bar is in the very air of government, an instinctive breathing together of the fraternity in high places. Who would gain most by letting employed lawyers into court? The Treasury would save millions in all government departments that employ lawyers. But where is the voice of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke QC?

The Home Office has a keen interest, but the voice of Michael Howard QC is also silent. The Attorney General, as head of the CPS, should be keenly interested. He has said not a word, but then he is also ex-officio Leader of the Bar. Even the Solicitor-General is a barrister, again strangely silent. Every permanent secretary of the Lord Chancellor's Department has always been a lawyer. Barbara Mills QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, who stands to gain most in her budget, is

her public protest in this matter. In the Commons there are 29 solicitors overpowered by 54 barristers. If we had a tradition that all health ministers should be doctors, would we ever have had any NHS reform unfavourable to doctors?

a barrister and hardly conspicuous for

This is a modest reform, designed to make run of the mill cases faster and cheaper. The brightest and best specialist freelance advocates, the Carmans, Lesters, Mansells, Kennedys and Scriveners, will always be in hot demand. But why can the market not be left to operate freely? Why do barristers feel the need for special pro-tection, denying clients the right to choose who shall represent them, in which courts and at what price?

The judges will have to pronounce soon. They look as if they will vote to protect their own. If so, will an incoming Labour prime minister, married to a QC, promise to break the iron grip

Hey, he's OK, he's one of us

Tony Blair, not BSE, is now the most popular British subject for US chat shows, writes John Carlin

Pony Blair, who begins a three-day visit to the United States today, has timed his visit to perfection. American interest in Britain seldom ranges beyond Emma Thompson and the Royal Family, but the ins and outs of the Mad Cow drama have seized the national imagination to such a degree that people have actu-ally started to take something resembling a glimmer of interest in British politics.

The late night TV talk shows, faithful measures of the lowest common denominator of American popular wisdom. have been tapping a rich vein in Mad Cow jokes. Yesterday, a dentist from Syracuse, New York State, faxed six delirious pages on cannibalism among cows to the Independent office in Washington. The man on the Arlington omnibus has, it seems, gone beyond speculation on the science of bovine dementia and is beginning to wonder what the political fallout in Britain will be, whether the days of John Major (suddenly almost as famous as Hugh Grant) might be

numbered. Enter Tony Blair, hitherto an object of curiosity among Washington insiders, who besides meeting with Boutros Boutros Ghali, breakfasting with Henry Kissinger and chatting with President Clinton, will be making his face known in half the households in the country when he appears on Thursday on ABC's Good Morning America. (No prizes for guessing the issue that will dominate the interviewers' agenda.)

The last time a Labour leader made an official visit to the US was in July 1990. Neil Kinnock told reporters he felt "10 foot tall" after a youngster had recognised him on a Manhattan street. He felt even better after President Bush talked to him politely and at length -President Reagan had given him a frosty 20 minutes in 1987 - and the American press wrote that he was a nice fellow who iust might make it to Downing

A cover story on Mr Blair in the New Yorker in February was New York Times, the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal have drawn approving attention to Mr Blair's "moderation". He is not a wild-eyed radical like some of his clothcapped Labour forebears, the sub-text went, he is not suspiciously pinko: he talks our language, he's one of us.

Furthermore, in a country where the greatest insult is to be called a "loser", Mr Blair has the air of a man who will flatten John Major at the next

It is in Washington, of course, that he will come under the closest scrutiny. His first engagement in the capital will be a cocktail party on Thursday evening at the home of Sidney Blumenthal, the author of the New Yorker's flattering February profile. Among the guests will be senior members of the Clinton Administration and eminences of the Washington

Mr Blumenthal said there was "tremendous" interest in

Interviews have drawn approving attention to Mr

Mr Blair - primarily because of the perception that Mr Blair is

Blair's 'moderation'

a sort of Son of Clinton, or perhaps rather Clinton's smart younger cousin, and because of the analogies between the New Democrats and new Labour. "This is a story of somebody who takes control of a political

party and tries to remake it in his own image," Mr Blumen-thal said. "Clinton tried to do it first so people are very interested to see how Blair is going about it." When the two men meet in

the White House on Friday morning they are likely, against the backdrop of their looming election battles against conservative opponents, to exchange ideas on how to market a progressive agenda at a time when people are increasingly suspicious of "big government".

Shared political challenges, similarity of styles and a common distaste for John Major the President has not forgotten the Conservative Party's unsav-oury support of George Bush in the 1992 election – should make for good chemistry. "While Clinton's relation-ship with Major has smoothed

Prime Minister". Interviews out a bit after a rough begin-published in the last week in the ning," Mr Blumenthal said, "the potential is there in 1997 for a President Clinton and a Prime Minister Blair to enjoy the kind of close, mutually supportive relationship we saw in Reagan and Thatcher, a relationship which - if Blair restores Britain's position in Europe could only boost Britain's international influence."



Giving nature a helping hand? It would be folly to require all farms to convert to organic systems of production

Yesterday's Independent asked whether a radical attempt to redefine the label attached to British agriculture as the "safest and the greenest" is the only way to ensure the competitiveness of our agricultural industry. In the present climate following the BSE scare many people are asking a similar question. The answer, at least in part, is almost certainly yes, but this does not mean that all of Britain's farms should tomor-

row switch to organic production. The issue should not be polarised. It is not simply a question of whether to change farming techniques or whether organic farming alone is the answer to the industry's problems. Rather, supplying food of the quality and at the price that consumers demand is paramount. Organic food production undoubtedly plays a part out it represents only a part of a diverse and changing industry.

There is not, and never will be, one national label for all British agricultural produce. In fact one of the greatest assets of the British agricultural industry is the very diversity that exists within it. Consumers are looking for value for money when they buy food but value for money for one consumer may mean something com-

pletely different to another. Clearly, the consumer wants food that is safe at a reasonable price but after that simple tenet is established, consumer responses become more complex and varied and at times contradictory. Consumers' demands in relation to such facets as colour, shape and refrigerator life often rest uneasily alongside the marketing of organic produce, where the shape and size

standards. In surveys many consumers cite their preference for extensively farmed produce over intensively farmed. Yet over the last 10 years it is the consumption of poultry, which tends to be more intensively produced, which has increased by more than 30 per cent in the UK during a period when total meat consumption as declined.

Although a certain greening of UK consumer tastes over the 1990s is detectable, the extent to which this has swept over the entire population is questionable. Organic produce is only a small niche market. British farmers should be encouraged to fill this mar-

Supplying food of the quality and at the price consumers

demand is paramount

ket but this an entirely different proposition from switching all UK agriculture to organic production.

Surveys highlight the importance consumers attribute to convenience, ease of parking and the time needed to prepare food. Organic food is well down the list of priorities; so much so that Marks & Spencer, for exampie, no longer stocks organic products because of weak consumer

demand. Much of UK agriculture, while not using very extensive farming meth- ical shift to widespread organic pro-

farmed large upland areas, UK farmers have also responded in their uptake of environmental schemes and the UK has been at the forefront in Europe in developing environ-mentally sensitive areas where farmers adjust their production techniques to enhance the environment.

The UK has been the in the forefront of introducing animal welfare legislation in the EU - it is banning stalls and tethers in the pig industry ahead of other EU countries. It will be interesting to see whether the UK consumer will choose British bacon over Danish bacon because of the UK's animal welfare legislation - to date all the evidence suggests that it is relative prices and intrinsic quality that will determine UK market share.

There is a danger that switching to the production of strictly organic food in the narrowest sense would not just damage the UK's share of the food market but place this country's farm produce outside the income range of the poorer sections of our society. While a small number of consumers are willing to pay a premium for organically produced products - thus enabling organic farmers to remain in business - it seems inconceivable that all consumers would be willing to pay this same premium. On average, UK consumers spend around 11 per cent of total consumer expenditure on household food but for poorer sections of society, particularly pensioners and unemployed, this proportion is a lot

actually organic, is already produced British agricultural industry of a rad-

may not conform to their exacting ods. This includes the traditionally duction? First, the quantity produced would fall significantly. For example organic cereal yields are some 35 per cent lower than conventional ones shifting UK agriculture to organic production would drastically reduce the production of home-grown food and as a consequence considerably

worsen the food trade deficit. Indeed how would British farmers compete with farmers from other countries, both on world export markets and within our own market? Farmers are being continually encouraged to become more competitive and the protection tradi-tionally afforded them is slowly being removed. If British agriculture

The UK has been at the forefront of the move to environmental in the EU, are favoured by the conthinking

becomes organic it will only survive against this competition, if it can truly differentiate its product from that produced elsewhere and then charge a premium price for it. This may be achieved in some segments of the market but would be all but impossible across the board.

It is also doubtful that such a radical change would be sustainable at a national level. Organic production relies on the use of organic fertilisers What then would be the risks to the or animal waste. If inorganic fertilisers were not used, there would be a large increase in the demand for National Farmers' Union.

organic ones. But without a huge increase in the population of farm animals, for which there would be no conceivable consumer demand, the supply of animal manure simply does not exist. The soil would be slowly depleted.

Which direction then should British agriculture take? We have highlighted the move to incorporate environmental thinking and animal welfare standards into agricultural policy making in recent years, a move in which the UK has been very much to the

From the UK farmer's perspective it is important that the changes he is encouraged to undertake are endorsed by consumer behaviour. This means that consumers actively choose UK pig meat ahead of pig meat produced from systems banned in the UK and that our grazing livestock systems, which are already the most extensive suming public.

In simple terms, any changes to the UK's farming practices must be mar-ket-led. To date, while there is a niche for organically produced food with a price premium, UK farmers will quite happily endeavour to meet that demand. But it would be folly, however, if all or even the generality of the UK's farmers were forced to switch entirely over to organic systems of production – that would not just place UK farmers in an uncompetitive position but require them to produce a product for which there was no widespread demand.

Soil Association

BRITISH AGRICULTURE: TIME TO CHANGE

BSE is just one symptom of the breakdown of intensive agriculture.

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Organic farming can solve the crisis facing British agriculture.

The Soil Association has been fighting for organic food & farming for 50 years.

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Come on supermarkets, give us those spotty apples

Going through the revolving doors of the supermarkets I am sucked nto a weird world of plastic-wrapped, clossy-packed food products that eem to have no origin. The merhandise is simply there, on shelves. The shelves are supplied from store-ooms hidden behind plastic flaping doors. Beyond that ... nothing. i That was before the BSE row began. low I am a little wiser. Now I have earnt what some farmers were feedng their livestock, and what goes on aside an abattoir. Now I have learnt hat boiled animal bones were used for redicines, sweets, Easter eggs and rake-up, that tomato paste is made

Organic food is too hard to find, says Jeanette Longfield

that antibiotics are used routinely in animal feed to promote growth.

without damaging the environment, with no unnecessary additives or bizarre ingredients or hi-tech processes, and that it is fresh, safe and nutritions. I wander, with relief, over to the organic food section. Only to find that I need to take out a mortgage for a pound of minced meat, and I have a meagre two choices of apple

with genetically modified organisms; varieties, and that one of those looks organic. But then I've got cats, and rather, well, sad.

I've heard about special schemes I want to do something to make where the local organic farmer delivers my food is produced humanely, ers boxes of fresh goodies to your door each week. I've also heard that, at certain times of the year, all you get is spuds and cabbage, and I'm not sure I like bubble and squeak that much. I could grow my own I suppose. The satisfaction of growing your own broccoli, cutting the florets in the garden to put straight into a pot of boiling water in the kitchen. Cheap, fresh and

doesn't what cats do in the garden do unspeakably toxic things to your veg?

So is it back to the plastic, conventional world of agro-chemically produced, ecosphere-damaging, cruel Frankenfoods?

Not for me. Never mind that organic meat costs more. I'll just buy less of it. Never mind that organic fruit and veg looks a bit odd. I'll get used to it and, anyway, it's tasty. I'll join one of those organic delivery schemes -I'm sure Delia has lots of wonderful

● ■ ●

recipes for cabbage, and I'm going to put those broccoli seeds in this weekend. And just for good measure, I'll be sending my cheque to a charity campaigning for action.

In the meantime, I shall march through those supermarket revolving doors and ask to see the manager. want food with character, flavour and a known pedigree - I want food I can trust. Perhaps, as I walk out, I'll say: "I shall shop elsewhere."

The writer is co-ordinator of the National Food Alliance, an umbrella body for voluntary organisations and charities, but

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giel report

Tured bas:

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obituaries/gazette

Ben Johnson

Some Hollywood actors are so naturally saddle-happy that it's odd to see them wearing a suit. Ben Johnson was pre-eminent among these; he had been a cowboy and all but a few of his films were westerns. One that wasn't was The Last Picture Show (1971), in which he was Sam the Lion, who ran the town's movie house, its pool hall, garage and cafe. It was a tank town deep in the heart of cavalry trilogy, She Wore a Yel-low Ribbon (1949) and Rio Grande (1950), but more im-portantly he played the lead for him in Wagonmaster (1950), the main charge of the More Texas in the early 1950s, ironically enough allowing Johnson to wear the cowboy duds of that era. He brought to the role his customary understated benevthe man in charge of the Morolence, a quality needed as he advised the young bloods - Jeff mon wagon train heading west-Bridges, Timothy Bottoms - on ward to found a settlement on that prime concern of all movie youth, sex.

Johnson had originally turned down the role because the youths and their girls were seen naked from time to time, but was talked into it by John Ford, who owed a favour or two to its director, Peter Bogdanovich (who had made a documentary and written a book about Ford about him). The performance brought Johnson the year's Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.

Ford was Johnson's mentor, and as in the case of John Wayne (with whom Johnson appeared in a handful of Wayne's last films) he plucked him from doubling and stunt work to make him an actor. He had practically grown up on horseback, and had arrived in movies as a wrangler on Howard Hughes's *The Outlaw* (1943). In 1948 Ford made him one of the patrolmen in the fifth film version (Ford had also directed one in 1919) of Three Godfathers. He played soldiers in two of Ford's

the Utah-Arizona border.
The best that might be said of this performance is that he resembled George O'Brien, the hero of Ford's silent westerns. Johnson was not natural star material, as he had already proved in Mighty Joe Young (1949). Ernest B. Schoedsack's jokey re-vamp of his own and Merian Cooper's King Kong. He settled into supporting roles, such as the member of the Ryker gang causing all the trou-ble for Alan Ladd and the homesteaders in Shane (1953). Johnson was equally adept at

years passed became a weight-ier actor, notably good in Bran-do's Freudian western One-eyed Jacks (1961), as one of a couple of bandits whose relationship seems more intimate than a mere partnership.

Johnson was lost, playing a trooper again for Ford, in that director's penultimate, all-name disaster, Cheyenne Autumn (1964), but he did solid work for the two directors - above all others - who had inherited Ford's mantle, Tom Gries with Will Penny (1968) and Sam Peckin-pah, with Major Dundee (1965) and The Wild Bunch (1969). In the first of these he was the rancher who gives a winter job to the grizzled veteran Charlton Heston, while in Peckinpah's two films he was, respectively, one of Heston's sergeants and a dastardly member of Robert

Ryan's gang.

He was, gratifyingly, as constant a member of Peckinpah's stock company as Warren Oates, and Peckinpah made him one of his most devious villains in *The Getaway* (1972), as the member of the parole board who springs Steve McQueen from jail, arranges for him to lead a heist and then doublecrosses him all down the line. He was again excellent as an experienced rodeo promoter in

Peckinpah's Junior Bonner (1972), also with McQueen. He was the meanest of sheriffs in James Frawley's under-rated comic western Kid Blue (1973) and outstanding in John Milius's Dillinger (1973), as Melvin Purvis, the FBI man who hunted down Dillinger, who was Warren Oates.

He was the officer in charge of the operation to recapture William Atherton, and Goldie Hawn, in The Sugerland Express (1974), but not at his best as the murdered girl's angry father in Robert Aldrich's Hustle (1975); but then Aldrich never was a di-rector to restrain actors. As Hollywood fost interest in the western, Johnson's credits became less interesting; and he continued to work, still mainly in the saddle, in television. In 1985 he established the Ben Johnson Celebrity Rodeo at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Oklahoma, to raise money for the Children's Medical Research Inc, and he later en-dowed the Ben Johnson Research Chair in Pediatric Cancer Research at the University of Oklahoma.

David Shipman Ben Johnson, actor: born Pawhuska, Oklahoma 20 June 1920; died Mesa, Arizona 8 April 1996.



Johnson, as the leader of a Mormon wagon train, with Joanne Dru in Wagonmaster, 1950

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Jeffrey Lee Pierce

Rock music has had its beautiful losers (Jim Morrison, lan Curtis, Kurt Cobain) but the American singer and songwriter Jeffrey Lee Pierce was more in the mould of the late Johnny Thunders (of New York Dolls and Heartbreakers fame) and Malcolm Owen (of Britain's Ruts), one of those musicians who never quite fulfil their potential yet follow their destiny to its inescapable conclusion. Titles like "Walking With the Beast", "Bad America" and "Wildweed" now seem sad

portents of what was to come. Born in Texas in 1958, Jeffrey Lee Pierce later moved to the West Coast, Los Angeles was one of the few American cities to follow the British and New York punk scene and the young Jeffrey soon became obsessed with Blondie to such an extent that he became president of their fan club (a couple of years earlier, a teenage Morrissey developed a similar unhealthy fascination with the New York Dolls, another proof that fandom sometimes navs creative dividends).

In 1979, following in the footsteps of the Germs, the Dead Kennedys and the Dickies, Pierce formed his own punk pinched the guitarist Kid Konband, Creeping Ritual. He still made ends meet by working hard in a record store and con-

Gun Club, an impressive fourpiece (also featuring Kid Congo Powers on guitar. Rob Ritter on bass and Terry Graham on drums) who seemed to create their own brand of swampy, ramshackle, psychotic, bluesinfluenced music.

Reflecting the singer's burgeoning interest in the blues, Fire of Love, Gun Club's début album, included possessed covers of Robert Johnson's "Preaching the Blues" and Tommy Johnson's "Cool Drink of Water" alongside Pierce's own compositions ("Sex Beat", "She's Like Heroin to Me") which already reflected his unhealthy fascination for the seamier side of rock 'n' roll. Originally released on the LAbased Ruby Label, Fire of Love attracted much interest in Europe and was picked up by the Beggars Banquet label for the UK while France's New Rose acquired the rights for that territory. The Parisian rock élite, always in love with tragic figures like Morrison, Thunders and hero.

But, just as Gun Club seemed about to capitalise on this early critical acclaim, the Cramps and his Bad Seeds (which fea- oblivion. go (né Brian Tristan) to replace refugee Kid Congo). the departing Brian Gregory. Still, the momentum nevertheby 1981, he was at the helm of band to Animal Records, a la-

bel set up by the Blondie gui-tarist Chris Stein. The latter acted as producer on Miami, the second Gun Club album, which also featured Debbie Harry on backing vocals. This was a more ambitious offering, from the reworking of Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Run Through the Jungle" to the voodoo feel of "Like Calling Up Thunder" and "Devil in the Woods". Gun Club looked like serious contenders but, by 1984's "Las Vegas Story" (which would have formed an apt soundtrack for the Mike Figgis Oscar-nominated Legging Las Vegas nominated Leaving Las Vegas movie) Pierce's boozy and druggy life-style had started to overshadow the music.

After the Fur Bible offshoot and the bassist Patricia Morrison's departure for the richer and more bombastic pastures of Sisters of Mency, Pierce went solo and released Wildweed, a prefer focused collection which included the strangely prophetic "Terreart of the Artist" in Hell". By then, his influence could be felt on the work of rootsier American outfits like audience. His demise is anoth-Green on Red and on the new er sad reminder that the rock 'n'

as producer. The singer lived for Los Angeles 31 March 1996.

tured for a time the Gun Club

a time in London and gigged fitfully around Europe, doing strange versions of jazz standards (John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme". Billie Holiday's 'Strange Fruit") and releasing disappointing albums of past and recent concerts on many labels (Two Sides of the Beast on Dojo for instance). In 1993, the last Gun Club album, ironically entitled Lucky Jim, featured his Japanese wife, Romi Mori, on bass. This was to be the last gasp of a career which had patently lost its direction. Indeed, in interviews, an increasingly bitter Pierce had begun to refer to his work as being "full of weaknesses".

With his tousled blond-dyed: hair, Jeffrey Lee Pierce was in many ways the archetypal American cult musician, at the crossroads of many musical styles (the goth scene, the swamp blues now revived by G Love & Special Sauce) which later came to prominence. It's a pity this peripheral figure found the bottle and the needirection taken by Nick Cave roll life-style can also lead to

Pierre Perrone

In 1987 Pierce reformed Gun Jeffrey Lee Pierce, singer, guitarist, Club. recording with Robin composer: born Texas 27 June tributing to music fanzines but, less enabled Pierce to sign his Guthrie of the Cocteau Twins 1958; married Romi Mori; died



In many ways the archetypal American cult musician: Pierce with Photograph: Susan Moore / Redfems

Professor Peter Nailor

Peter Nailor - public servant. scholar, university teacher, intellectual entrepreneur and raconteur - was one of those erudite yet tidy-minded allrounders whose like we may not see again in a senior civil service shaped by the performance indicator and modern managerial techniques.

His kaleidoscopic career took him from arranging the invita-tions to the Spithead Review in Coronation Year via a pioneering spell in the intensely secret world of nuclear weapons after the Macmillan govern-ment acquired Polaris for the Royal Navy, through chairs of both Politics at Lancaster University and History at the Royal Naval College to the Provostship of Gresham College, a post he filled until his

In a country where the barriers between professions have, wartime apart, remained ludi-TOUSIY AND NATINITULIY NIGH. Nailor leapt them with cheerful abandon, leaving a lifeenhancing legacy wherever he landed. He never filled the very highest positions in public service or the university world (though that 16th-century foundation, Gresham College, has a very special éclat), but he left a distinctive flavour in both. thanks particularly to his great gifts as a conversationalist and an analyst of British politics in general and defence policy in particular. His deep insight was lightly worn and beguilingly

transmitted. Nailor's literary output, though small, captured this. The Nassau Connection, ready for publication at least a decade before security clearance was finally afforded it in 1988, is a fascinating account of the procurement of the Polaris system based both on the documents and on Nailor's direct experience as the administrator within the Ministry of Defence's

Polaris Executive. His Learning from Precedent in Whitehall, commissioned by the Institute of Contemporary British History and published in 1991, could only have been fashioned by someone who trod the corridors of policy-making and the paths of scholarship with equal ease.

His work on Polaris was probably the most important assignment in his 17 years in the Civil Service. The project still stands out as that rarity - an enterprise that came in on time and within the budget. Though

his last posting in the MoD, as head of its post-Fulton report "planning unit", Defence Sec-retariat 22, suited his forwardlooking and speculative mind.

Nailor's transfer to academic life in 1969 was made with brio. He made full use of his Whitehall contacts and his large flat on the roof of Lonsdale College became Lancaster's choicest intellectual salon. He was the kindest of teachers and colleagues but, perhaps wisely, he felt a need to shift from the university world before the fun was squeezed out of it by the dead weight of administration.

Natior returned to the service of the Royal Navy in 1977 as Professor of History and International Affairs at Greenwich. He relished his exquisite surroundings and offered regular hospitality in the painted hall with a characteristic Nailorism - "Dress up for the surroundings; dress down for

the food. It was perhaps his last job, however, as Provost of Gresham College in the City of London from 1988, that saw the finest flowering of Natior-thescholarly-entrepreneur. It was a kind of homecoming for a former Mercers' schoolboy given the company's intimate connection with Gresham - a singular and ancient institution which has always had professors, but never students. And with a revived governing body and the superb assistance of the college's administrator, Maggie Butcher, Nailor presided over a renaissance in the fortunes and reputation of Sir Thomas Gresham's intellectual bene-

faction to the City of London. Gresham College provided the ideal last setting for a man of Nailor's width and humanity and the trace of his rich, droll and modulated tones will linger long in the rafters of its Holbom home in Barnard's Inn Hall.

Peter Hennessy

Peter Nailor, civil servant and historian: born 16 December 1928; First Lord's Representative original Admiralty Interview Board 1960 62; member, Polaris Executive 1962-67: Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Defence 1967-69; Professor of Politics, Lancaste University 1969-77, Professor of History Royal Naval College Greenwich 1977-88, Dean 1982-84, 1986-88: Chairman, British International Studies Association 1983-86; Provost, Gresham College 1988-96; died London 5 April 1996.

Bernard Lepetit

Bernard Lepetit was knocked down by a car whilst jogging in Versailles and died of his injuries. He was aged 47. Widely regarded as one of the outstanding historians of his generation, he was the Director of Historical Research at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He was also one of the directors of the famous review Annales, which has, for many people in the Western world, been the outstanding historical periodical since before and after the Second World War.

Lepetit was recognised as being a scholar of remarkable ability, and it was confidently expected that through his work and through the research of his associates he would become one of the great figures of

French historical writing. In recent years it has often been said that, in a country which was famous for its intellectuals, France seemed never to have found a successor to

Jean-Paul Sartre, to Raymond Aron, to Michel Foucault, or to others who had disappeared or fallen silent. But the exception was the study of history.

French historians always seemed to flourish and to attract admiration wherever history was studied. In particular there was the period where Ferdinand Braudel laid down the law, insisting that historians should absorb the work of other disciplines (geography, anthropology, economics) and should study the tendencies that were to be seen over vast periods of time. This was "la Nouvelle Histoire* Lepetit claimed that this way

of studying history had had its day. And he had the boldness to do so from the Annales, which had been Braudel's fortress. He pointed out that history was a social discipline. It had to be taught. The Braudel legacy meant either that there was a gap between the research historians were carrying out

and the history they were teaching. Or it meant that historians were going to ignore the com-mon market of historical imperatives that Braudel had left and simply return to narrative and diplomatic history, which was disappointing.

Leoetit's argument was that the activities of men and women were what counted, rather than the weight of macro-economics or the stifling limitations of social structural theory. In his first book, which was a study of French towns between the 18th and the 19th centuries, it was not enough to look for statistics. One should not study a town such as Angers by the same methods that one had used when studying a more com-mercial urban centre, like Rouen. By virtue of studying the activities of the populations of towns it was possible to see the importance of politics in making a town the centre of an ad-

nomic plane; nor, like some English urban historians, pay attention only to the quality of life. Politics count in social history. Thus Brandel was wrong,

when studying the archives of Spain in the Mediterranean, to be excited only by the details of shipping and cargoes. The documents that he turned over with impatience contained accounts of the actions of men. and they should have been studied. Equally, because it was thought important to study history over long periods of time, the French Revolution has almost ceased to exist as a subject. Rather there is the growing decline of the Ancien Régime, and the problem is why did it cease to function rather than why a revolution broke out.

Lepetit named himself an historian of towns and of space. His aim was to transform social history. In 1995 he edited a book which includes contributions ministrative hierarchy. One on Florentine magnates at the cannot remain on a purely eco-end of the Middle Ages, dif-

ferent types of sovereignty in the Islamic states of the Mediterranean, the French naval industry at the end of the 19th century, the study of the Malthusian interpretation of population growth, and several others. This was not, explained Lepetit, a junk-shop. It was to illustrate how the con-

cents of social history were rel-

evant to different subjects in different periods. Lepetit was passionate about history which he had taught in the University of Paris I before going to the Hautes Etudes. His books, Les Villes dans la France moderne (1988), Une Ecole pour les sciences sociales (1996), Les Formes de l'expérience (1995) are published in France by Albin Michel and in England by the Cambridge University Press.

Douglas Johnson Bernard Lepetit, historian: born 28 August 194S; married (three children); died Versailles 31 March 1996.

Tribune) was first published, 1841; the

poser, pianist and writer, died 19 March, aged 65. Student of Lennox Berkeley, who introduced him to Benjamin Britten. Wrote biographies of Britten (1981) and the tenor Peter Pears (1992). Carl Stokes, politician, died Cleveland, Ohio 3 April, aged 68. The first black Democrat in

tanamo, Cuba.

Vice-Admiral John Bulkeley,

died Silver Spring, Maryland 6 April, aged 84. In 1942, com-

manded the patrol torpedo

boat that broke through Japan-

ese lines and allowed General

MacArthur to escape to the

Philippines. Appointed by

President Kennedy in 1961

commanding officer at Guan-

Christopher Headington, com-

the Ohio House of Representatives in 1962; five years later became the first black mayor of a major US city, Cleveland. Hjalmar Hvam, skier, died Portland, Oregon, 30 March, aged 93. The first winner, in 1936, of the oldest ski race in the US, the Golden Rose at Mount Hood; in 1937 designed the first self-release ski binding. Saf-Ski.

BIRTHS

BOYLE / CORNER: On 29 March 1996 to Helen and Andrew, a son, George Christopher James Corner,

CHIDWICK: On Saturday 6 April 1996 at Maidstone, to Sandra and Russell Chidwick, a son, Joshua Kenneth. GULL: On 22 March, at King's College Hospital, to Pip and Richard, a band-some son Casper Woodrow, a broth-

BALLEY: On 4 April 1996, to Sally (née Creasy) and Nicholas, two daughters, Alice and Lucy, sisters for Caloe. RENDALL: On 29 March, to Cather-ine and Wilfrid, a daughter Olivia Margaret Diana, a sister to Edward, Rosalind and James.

RICKETT: Sir Raymond Mildmay Wil-son, CBE, died & April 1996, beloved insband of Naomi and loving father of Kimjyo, Guy and Vanessa. Family funeral at Charing Crematorium on Thursday 18 April 1996. Memorial service to be announced later. Family flowers only, donations if desired

SAVAGE: On 6 April Richard Temple Savage MBE, peacefully at home, in his 87th year. WINTERSON: Patrick, died peacefully on Friday 5 April 1996. Funeral ser-number is 0171-293 2000.

Births. **Marriages**

& Deaths

vice at St Peter's Church, Barton, Cambridge, on Monday 15 April at 11.30am, Flowers c/o Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge, Aunouncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding

universaries, la Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Ed-itor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010. and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announce-ments (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. daytime telephone num

Birthdays

Mr Lyndon Brook, actor, 70; Lord Brookes, former company chairman, 37; Professor J. Desmond Clark, anthropologist and archae-ologist, 80; Sir Anthony Cleaver, ologist, set sir Antiony Cleaver, chairman, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, 58; Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, High Court judge, 59; Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing, 87; Mr George Fyfe, chairman, Cooperative Wholesale Society, 55; Mr Patrick Garland, theatre and film director, 61; Mr Achian Henri, poet and former president, Liverpool Academy of Arts, 64; Mr John Holroyd, ecretary for Appointments to the Prime Minister, 61: Miss Gloria Hunniford, radio and televis senter, 56; Mr Owen Kelly, former Commissioner of Police for the City of London, 64; Professor Kathleen Major, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 90; Mr Stan Mellor, racehorse trainer and former jockey, 59; Mr David Moorcroft, athete, 43; Sir Robert Rhodes James, historian and former MP, 63; M Maurice Schumann, author and politician, 85; Mr Omar Sharif, actor, 64; Mr Thomas Spencer, MEP, 48; Mr Christopher Stoddart, man-

aging director, GMTV, 46; Mr Paul

Theroux, author, 55; Mr Max von

Anniversaries

Births: James V. King of Scotland. 1512; Hugo Grotius (Huig de Groot), jurist and theologian, 1583; John Wilmot, second Earl of Rochester, poet and courtier, 1647; Sir John Pringle, physician, 1707; Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, founder of homeopathy, 1755; William Hazlitt, essayist and critic, 1778; Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, naval officer, 1794; Auguste-Joseph Franchomme, cellist, 1808; Lewis Wallace, novelist, author of Ben Hur. 1827; William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, 1829; Joseph Pulitzer, newspaper propri-etor and founder of the Prizes, 1847; etor and rounder of the Prizes, 1847; Arthur Melville, painter, 1855; Eu-gene (Eugen) Francis Charles D'Al-bert, pianist and composer, 1864; George William Russell (AE), poet, 1867; George Arliss (George Au-gustus Andrews), actor, 1868; Claire Pooth Lore absorbits 1002, Patrol. Booth Luce, playwright, 1903; Robert Burns Woodward, organic chemist, 1917. Deaths: Agostino Agazzari, composer, 1640; William Cheselden, surgeon. 1752; Joseph-Louis Lagrange, astronomer, mathematician

and physicist, 1813; Alexander Naspublished, 1860: Finland was grantmyth, painter, 1840; Giovanni Bated a constitution by Russia, 1861; the Archduke Maximilian of Austria betista Amici, astronomer and optician, 1863; Jean-Baptiste André Dumas, came Emperor of Mexico, 1864: Phineas T. Barnum's circus first chemist, 1884; Algernon Charles Swinburne, poet, 1909; Stanley John opened, Brooklyn, New York, 1871; Vimy Ridge was finally taken by the Weyman, novelist, 1928; Khalil Gibran, writer, 1931; Edgar Mid-Canadian troops, 1917; Paul von Hindeton, journalist and playwright, 1939; Auguste-Marie Louis Lumjère, cine pioneer, 1954; Arthur Ben-jamin, composer, 1960; Michael Curdenburg was re-elected President of denburg was re-elected President of Germany, 1932; the German battle-ships Blucher and Karlsuhe were sunk. 1940; the aircraft carrier HMS Hernes was sunk by Japanese dive bombers in the Bay of Bengal, 1942; the US Senate passed the Civil Rights Bill, 1960; the US submarine jamin, composer, 1901; nucnaer cur-tiz (Mihaly Kertesz), film director. 1962; Evelyn Arthur St John Waugh, novelist, 1906; Antonia White, jour-nalist and novelist, 1980. On this day: Thresher was lost off Cape Cod, with all the crew of 125, 1963; over bananas were first displayed in a Lon-don shop window, 1633; the Prussians defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Mollwitz, 1741; the United States 3,000 people were killed after severe earthquakes occurred in Iran, 1972; Golda Meir resigned as prime min-ister of Israel, 1974; the first London patent system was established, 1790; Napoleon's army under General Soult was defeated by the Allies in performance of the musical show Chicago was staged, 1979. Today is the Feast Day of St Bademus, St Pulthe Bartle of Toulouse, 1814; the first British settlers arrived at Algoa Bay, bert of Chartres, St Macarius or Macaire of Ghent. St Michael de Sanctis, St Paternus of Abdinghof and The Martyrs under the Danes. in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, 1820; the Catholic Emancipation Bill was passed by Parliament, 1829; the New York Tribune (later Herald-

Chartists met on Kennington Com-Lectures mon, London, and presented their petition to Parliament, 1848; George Eliot's novel The Mill on the Floss was

National Gallery: Humphrey Wine "Curators and Conservators (ii): two paintings by Pierre Peyron", Tate Gallery: Edward Allington, "Still But Not Silent", 1pm. British Museum: Barbara Brend. "Moghul Palace Forts", 1.15pm.

Wills

Miss Mary Madge Lascelles, of Cromer, Norfolk, former Reader in English Literature at Oxford University and English tutor at Somerville 1931-60, left estate valued at £534,151 net. She left £10,000 to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, and £116,100 each to the Friends of the Bodieian Library, NSPCC, RNLI and the Royal Start and Garter Home. Mr Arthur Sidney Martin, of Avie-scot, Oxfordshire, a member of the scot, Oxforosinie, a memoer of the Security Services 1946-64 and an of-ficer with the Secret Intelligence Service 1964-69, left estate valued at £437,916 net.

Mr William Howard Vincent Levett, of Rye, East Sussex, "Hopper" Level, the former Kent wicket-keeper, left estate valued at £590,874 net. Mr Peter Crichton Kirkpatrick, of Bournemouth, Dorset, former oarsman with the Thames Rowing Club, ich estate valued at £788,356 pet.

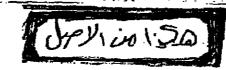
The Hon Mrs Edith Honor Betty Earl, of London SW7, the portrai painter, left estate valued at £553,621

Mr William Dickson, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, finance director of Grans-da Television 1976-82, left estate valued at £228,351 net. Mr Michael John Dutfield, of Ealing. London W5, the television pro-

ducer who made documentaries in Ulster, Beirut, Bosnia, Sudan and Southern Africa, left estate balued at £522,917 net. The Marquise Violet Evelyn de Ra-vigny, of London SW15, left estate valued at £81,610 net.

Sir Philip Courts Antrobus, of West Amesbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £3,232,672 net. Violet Mary Teresa, Lady Briscoe, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £4,763,366 net

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mo iment mounts the Queen's Life Guar at Horse Guards, Ham; by Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham 11.30nm, band provided



CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Mixed bag: Industrial production disappoints while buying on the high street suggests growth in confidence among consumers

Output trend hits three-year low

DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

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00 to 3.5.

in February was at its weakest since the exchange rate crisis in September 1992, government

statisticians reported yesterday. The likelihood that manufacturing industry is firmly in re-cession fuelled City expectations that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will cut the cost of borrowing one more time -despite a call for caution on interest rates from the Treasury's independent advisers and further evidence of high street

"Sitting on his hands might be the best approach at the mocut base rates," predicted Simon Briscoe, an economist at investment bank Nikko Europe. Manufacturing output was virtually flat in February. Its level in the latest three months was

0.5 per cent lower than the previous three months.

Total industrial output was up The trend in industrial output 0.1 per cent during the same period. A rebound in energy production due to colder weather took it 0.4 per cent higher during the month.

The Office for National Statistics (replacing the CSO) said the trend in both manufacturing and total output was flat. Manufacturing has now been static for three months, while the trend in industrial output dropped from 0.5 per cent growth to zero for the first

time since September 1992 Analysts played down the significance of the weak figures, while admitting that they gave Mr Clarke an excuse to cut base rates if he wanted to. An expected cut in German interest

rates would also help. Kevin Darlington at brokers Hoare Govett said: "The econ-

conflicting forces. Manufacturing is sluggish but the firmness of underlying demand is show-ing through." Last year's excess stock levels were being run

down, he said. Sean Shepley at investment bank CSFB said: "These figures tell us that demand was weak last year. It would be a mistake to set policy on the basis of a lag-

ging indicator." Barring an unexpectedly big jump in output in March, man-ufacturing output is likely to have fallen for two successive quarters. This would put it technically in recession, and could point to further job cuts in industry after a decline of

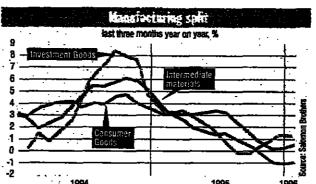
27,000 in January. It would also mean a weak figure for GDP growth in the first quarter of this year, as manufacturing accounts for about a quarter of the economy. The Chancellor and Governor of the

to focus on the quarterly change in GDP in their policy

By the time they next meet on 8 May, the two men will have the preliminary estimate of first-quarter growth, which could show a smaller rise than the fourth quarter's 0.5 per

The meeting will also come shortly before the publication of the Bank's next quarterly Inflation Report. This is expected to say, as the latest one does, that the Government is more likely than not to meet its inflation target. Yesterday's figures showed

faster growth in production of consumer durables, which rose 2.1 per cent in the latest three months. Output of both nondurable consumer goods and intermediate goods increased slightly. However, production of omy is poised between two Bank of England have tended to a drop in transport equipmonths. Its output picked up in cals and artificial fibres.



ment such as railway rolling stock and aerospace. There by the beef scare in March and were mixed fortunes in manufacturing. Apart from the transport sector, there was a sharp decline in the output of the coke, petrol refining and nuclear power industries. The food,

On the other hand, trends in chemicals and engineering - the biggest component of manufacturing - have been stronger. Chemicals output rose 0.8 per drink and tobacco industry has cent in February to a new investment goods declined due also been weak in recent record, driven by pharmaceuti-

sales recovery in its 6th month

DIANE COYLE Economics Editor

The retail sales recovery continued for the sixth successive month in March, according to the latest survey from the Confederation of British Industry. This steady growth in sales is likely to be reflected in later official figures.

Although the increase in sales volumes was slightly lower than the previous month's, there was a big jump in the volume of orders placed with sup-pliers to the highest level for more than two years. Retailers expect a strong advance in April sales even though their high expectations for last month

were disappointed. Sudhir Junankar, a CBI economist, said: "The continued expansion in the retail trade is encouraging as it suggests that consumers are becoming more confident and willing to spend more freely." Whether retailers' confidence was well-placed would depend on better Easter trading this year than last, he said.

The balance of retailers reporting higher sales compared to those reporting a decline in the year to March was 27 per cent, compared with 30 per

dipped slightly to 42 per cent from the extremely buoyant 45

per cent in March. Reflecting both the recent improvement in sales volumes and these optimistic expectations of the future trend, the balance increasing their orders with suppliers jumped to 21 per cent from 10 per cent in

February.

A growing number of respondents think sales volumes are above average for the time of year. The strongest growth last month was in areas closest to the housing market. The hardware, china and DIY sector reported the biggest volume increase, followed by durable household goods. Sales of furniture and carpets were healthy but down on February's substantial increase.

There were also significant improvements in sales at booksellers and clothing stores. Footwear and specialist food stores reported declines.

Further anecdotal evidence of the retail revival was provided by the latest weekly figures for John Lewis. The department store and Waitrose supermarket group said sales had been "more than satisfactory", up 21.6 per cent in the nine weeks cent in February. The balance to 30 March compared with the expecting an increase in April same period a year earlier.

Panel says Clarke has little room for manoeuvre

Economics Editor

The Treasury's panel of independent advisers warned Chan-cellor Kenneth Clarke that he has almost no room for manoeuvre on interest rates or tax

TOM STEVENSON

Shares in London shrugged off

Monday's heavy falls in New

York, with the FT-SE 100 index

reversing early losses to close 3.0

points higher last night. That re-

Wall Street's nerves would spill

over onto European bourses

and the American market itself

London was given a boost by

a sluggish British manufactur-

ing report which confirmed the continuing weakness of eco-

nomic growth and rekindled

hopes that interest rates could

still have further to fall. British

manufacturing output was un-changed in February and rose

just 0.4 per cent from a year ear-

lier. Industrial output, which in-

cludes utilities and mines, rose

0.4 per cent in February and 1.2

Attention had focused on

the equity market because

stronger than expected US pay-

per cent year on year.

neia nim waen il oi

terday afternoon.

ilience put paid to fears that

City Editor

argue that policy needs to be extremely cautious if the Government wants to hit its inflation

target.
"Most of us do not think that the next move in interest rates should necessarily be downwards, and some of us feel that there is already or could soon In the first of their two reports be a good case for raising inthis year, the six "wise persons" terest rates if the Government

roll figures last Friday served as

a worrying reminder that the American economy was grow-

ing probably too fast to allow

any further cuts in US rates.

Wall Street fell 88 points on

Monday, after a 130 point

morning fall that looked dan-

gerously like a re-run of the 170

point slump a month ago fol-

lowing bumper February em-

140,000 non-farm jobs created

in March - double the 70,000

consensus estimate - and a

smaller than expected down-

ward revision of the huge

705,000 February payroll increase to 624,000 confirmed

the American economy was

The gilt market in London

was harder hit with the yield on

the benchmark 10-year gov-

ernment bond, an indicator of

future interest rate expecta-

tions, rising 8 basis points to 8.11 per cent. In the US, the 30-

year treasury bond ended a five-

day slide.

growing at a healthy pace.

ployment figures.

US fears fail to

affect City

is serious about achieving its inflation objective," the report, released yesterday, concludes. The exception was Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University, taking the minority view that the economy has plent

of spare capacity. Similarly, only Professor Minford argued that there was

cuts of £2-£3bn in this year's Budget. Indeed, half of the panel's members suggested that either tax increases or further necessary.

per cent target for inflation exford argued that there was cluding mortgage interest pay- lor's views, that the pace of scope for more than token tax ments. The independent growth will pick up during the

economists do not think Mr course of the year. Most reck-Clarke can achieve both the in- on this will allow unemployment flation target and his forecast that GDP will grow by 3 per cent government spending cuts are his year. The panel's average forecast for growth is 2.2 per These recommendations are cent, ranging from 1.8 to 2.5 per based on the Government's 2.5 cent. The majority believe, in a subdued echo of the Chancellor's views, that the pace of

to continue its decline, although not falling below 2 million on the claimant count measure until 1997.

The exception to this is Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs, who thinks there could be a temporary rise in the job-

Society under fire for 'delays' over Robinson

Lawyers acting for Peter Robin-son, the Woolwich chief executive forced to resign for alleged financial irregularities, vesterday criticised the building society for failing to provide them of his alle use of resources.

DJ Freeman, the London law firm representing Mr Robinson, said it could not understand why there should be a two-week delay before it would receive written details of the

allegations against him. Irene Grieves, a spokes-woman for the firm, said: "One would assume that if he committed a series of improprieties so serious that they led to his resignation, they would already

be in writing.
"It is hard to understand why the report supposedly compiled by the Woolwich's internal auditors is not being made available to us."

Mr Robinson, 54, was ousted by the society a week ago, barey three months after taking up his post as chief executive, after working at the Woolwich for about 32 years.

His departure comes as the society prepares for a £3bn stock market flotation in August next year. More than 3.5 million savers are hoping to receive free shares worth about £800 each from the planned flotation.

Mr Robinson resignation followed allegations that he misused society resources, including having decorating and gardening work carried out at his £450,000 home in the village of Brasted in Kent.

He was also alleged to have authorised the use of a Range Rover for his family, plus other, so far unexplained, financial irregularities.

National Counties Building Society - which has just one branch - was yesterday forced to close its doors to a flood of investors desperate to open accounts with the society, writes

It follows press reports that Epsom, Surrey, be taken over its members could be in line for payouts worth up to £4,500

John Milton, the society's general manager, said: "We bave had very considerable interest and we have temporarily suspended the opening of accounts."

With just 6,500 borrowers and 16,000 savers, National Counties would never have been seen as a likely takeover target – until last week. Ranked the 30th largest society in the UK, it has reserves of more than £70m, which some experts believe would value it at about

Mr Robinson has steadfastly denied the allegations, claiming that he was the victim of a concerted smear attack masterminded by a "war office" at

the society. He blames disgruntled staff at Woolwich after he was forced to make a series of redundancies within the group, and is claiming compensation worth £600,000 for the sudden end to

his two-year contract. A society spokesman said yesterday: "Our lawyers are talking with Mr Robinson's and at the moment we have nothing more to add."

Meanwhile, the society yesterday denied rumours that it has entered into talks with Mike Jackson, chief executive at Birmingham Midshires, as a possible replacement.

Swiss banking giants discuss £32bn merger

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

Union Bank of Switzerland and CS Holding, two of the big three Swiss banks, announced yesterday that they were in dis-cussions about a £32bn merger. Analysts believe at least 15,000 jobs in Switzerland and possibly hundreds of jobs in London are at risk if the deal, due to be discussed at a UBS

goes ahead. The international investment banking operations of UBS and CS Holding, parent of Credit Suisse, both have large numbers of staff in London, in the City and at Canary Wharf.

board meetings on Thursday,

Although the two would fit well on the corporate finance side there are thought to be

ing and derivatives businesses of the two banks in London, which is bound to lead to rationalisation and job losses.

The proposal would also reshape Swiss banking, where the two groups have well over half of the domestic market, where there is substantial excess ca-

Banking sources believe that estimates of 15,000 job losses within Switzerland could prove on the low side.

After a day of misunderstandings and confusions in the market that followed a speculative report in a Swiss newspaper, Union Bank of Switzerland spokeswoman Gentrud Erismann said a board meeting will take place this week to discuss a possible merg-

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5689.74 3832.08 2.15

21744.17 19734.70 0.721

11594.99 10073.39 3.251

2525.42 2253.88 1.961

Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

large overlaps on the debt trad-ing and derivatives businesses er with CS Holding. There is to be an announcement by the end of the week.

Earlier CS Holding said a telephone conversation took place between CS Holding chairman Rainer Gut and UBS chairman Nikolaus Senn in which the possibility of discussing a merger between the two banks was "sounded out". Ms Erismann confirmed that the telephone conversation

Mr Guty said "It's up to the UBS board of directors to make up its mind about the propos-The discussions took place last week said UBS, but Ms Erisman refused to give any further details.

CS Holding's market value is SF 21.1bn (£12.4bn) and UBS is worth almost £20ba.

5.94 : 6.41

·5.41 · 5.78

long Hartet lates

Lloyd's set to raise another £100m for names' settlement

Lloyd's of London, the beleaguered insurance market, looks set to increase the £2.8bn settlement it has offered to lossmaking and litigating names, by raising a further £100m from

Dealing with Wall Street's jitters: London held firm despite worries over the Dow's heavy fall on Monday

brokers towards the package. Hopes were also high among some names yesterday that a further sum of up to £300m might be available through a lower-than-expected costing of the Equitas plan, the re-insur-ance agency being set up to shoulder all liabilities for busi-

ness underwritten up to 1992. If the £1.9bn cost of Equitas were to be reduced, it could substantially cut the £100,000 cap placed on names' potential additional contributions to the

However, a Lloyd's spokesman said yesterday: "We have always said that the Equitas pre-mium would be £1.9bn while the Department of Trade and Industry believes that it will be at

"There has been no detailed discussions with the DTI on the exact amount. There are some final number-crunching exercises to be done, which are taking place at present, but we can't do anything until the full DTI team is back and we discuss the matter with them.

Final bills for Equitas, which will cover the worst loss-making years and the potentially huge payouts from asbestos and pollution-related claims in the US, are expected at the end

The deal with brokers, expected to be announced in the next few weeks, will fall short of the amount expected by many vote on at Lloyd's annual gennames, who are having to foot eral meeting in July.

the bill of more than £8bn in

losses in the past five years.

Market sources said yesterday

that any higher amount, which

has to come out of future years'

profits, would seriously affect

Brokers are themselves ex-

pressing doubts about the

precedent involved subsidising

the market's previous losses, al-

though they are prepared to invest to keep the business alive.

ment now being hammered out

with brokers, they would would

be expected to contribute sums

in proportion to the premiums

each of them bring to the

The deal, likely to run for sev-

eral years, could allow Lloyd's

to juggle funds and add to the

Under the terms of the agree-

the viability of the business.

Hesterday Change Year Ago £ (London) 0.6557 +0.10 0.6265 \$ (London) 1.5250 -0.57c 1.5962 £ (N York) ± 0.6560 +0.13 0.6279 DM (London) 1.4918 +1.40m 1.4010 DM (London) 2.2750 +1.29pf 2.2362 Y (Lendon) 165,051 + Y0,646, 133,494 Y (London) 108.230 +Y0.825 83 6350

96.4 +0.6 B8.4 83.9 +0.3 84.5 Yesterday Day's chig Year Ago lades Latest Yr Aeo Mext Fies Oil Brent \$ 20.78 +0.63 18.53 396.80 +1.75 390.40 GDP <u>Gold \$</u>

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CINVen vies for Redland brick division Wood, the Christian Salvesen brick unit, would make it an obvick unit, would make it an obvick unit, would make it an obvick unit, would make it an obvict to pick unit of Dunlop Slazenger it on BTR. Other feathers in its Braas rise to about 60 ner cent as City banks

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

CINVen, the former venture capital subsidiary of British Coal, emerged yesterday as one of four potential buyers of Redland's UK brick manufacturing operations. Redland confirmed it was in talks with CINVen. which recently backed a £63.5m management buyout of the brick-making activities of Christian Salvensen, but said it was too early to say who would end up with the brick business.

vious contender to pick up Rediand's business. With a book value of about £130m, the Redland operation would give a combined operation some critical mass in a still highly competitive market.

A CINVen spokesman admitted yesterday the group was one of a small group of potential bidders, but it poured cold water on press reports yesterworth £250m. It is understood that Redland is looking for

is also up for sale, and Terca, a European brick company which was sold in February for £71m. Redland's combined brick operations had net assets at the end of 1995 of £245.9m. Operating profits of £21.6m were struck last year from sales

of £179.2m. Redland has about 18 per cent of the UK brick market, be-hind Ibstock, with 19 per cent, and Hanson, which controls 29 per cent, according to govern-

ment figures for last year.

CINVen about 23 per cent of the UK bricks market.

Redland confirmed last month that it was also talking to Wieneberger of Austria about a possible sale, but it has so far kept the other two potential buyers close to its chest. Speculation has focused on CRH, the Irish building materials group, and Australia's Boral and Pioneer.

CINVen has been a big player in buyouts over the years, and was recently involved in the accap include Automotive Products, acquired for £181m, and the £108m Wightlink deal.

Redland announced last month it was seeking buyers for its brick businesses as part of a radical restructuring of its European operations which are expected to involve the transfer of all the company's western European tile interests into Braas, its successful 50.8 per centowned German subsidiary, in exchange for cash and shares. The proposed deal would

and is expected to simplify in-vestment plans and reduce duplication. Although Braas has given Redland exposure to the recent post-unification surge in Germany, recession is taking its toll and the company believes it is the right time to clarify the relationship between the two.

In the year to December. Redland announced a 5 per cent fall in underlying profits to £368m and became the only FT-SE 100 company to announce

muscle in

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



Workout: More emphasis is being placed on fitness

Rentokil profit attacked in new shouting match

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The shouting match between the two sides to the £1.9bn bid battle for BET continued yesterday as pressure grew for a higher offer from Rentokil.

The new hostilities came as Fidelity International, once one of BET's biggest shareholders, revealed that it had reduced its stake to 1.09 per cent. The fund management group, which owned 7 per cent of BET a year ago, has been steadily reducing its stake. With the latest sale, it has cut its stake from just under 5 per cent to just over 1 per cent in the space of six weeks.

In a shot aimed at debunking Rentokil's past record, BET claimed profits growth at the pest control to potted plants group was well below the muchvaunted aim of 20 per cent a year. Stripping out foreign exchange benefits, profits on the sale of fixed assets and the use of previously established acquisition provisions, pre-tax profits rose by just 16.9 per cent last year, BET said.

specialising in the industrial services business."

Mr Thompson said the ad-

Rentokil's latest report and accounts, from which the figures were culled, also "catalogues disappointing results across a wide spread of Rentokil's businesses", BET claimed.

John Clark, chief executive. said: "The slowdown shown by Rentokil's report and accounts vindicates our view that Rentokil needs BET As we have always said, this ill-conceived offer seems to be a desperate attempt by Rentokil to use BET's superior growth to maintain its own targets at BET shareholders' expense.

But Rentokil hit back last night. Clive Thompson, chief executive, said: "We think this is the last knockings of a tired and flagging management team. Our view is that the time for a company doctor [at BET] is over ... It is time now to pass the company over to a management

verse comments in the annual report on 16 of its individual operations, highlighted by BET was part of its practice of reporting fairly on the perforof the group's

Given that there were over 200 such businesses in the group, they were "barely much reflection of the total", he said. Meanwhile, referring to the £7.5m of one-off nems picked

out by BET as inflating last year's profits, Mr Thompson said the other side had failed to refer to similar items in 1994, when exchange rates had been adverse and fixed asset disposal profits had been lower. These were actually "continuing items which occur every year", but stripping them out of both sets of figures he admitted the underlying growth rate was still just under 19 per cent.

Gym-building mania has swept the City in the last few years, particularly in the American investment banks such as Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch. The latter proudly boasts in the latest edition of the Securities & Investment Review that attendance at its in-house gym is

up 57 per cent since 1993. As employee fitness is now deemed so important, how are the Brits faring? According to the Review, Schroders has been holding aerobics classes for one 500-strong office where the average attendance has been between six and 12. Schroders is also one of the most successful investment banks in London. Is there a link?

"Complaints are generally seen in a negative way, but acted on positively, they help improve service and turn a potentially unhappy client into a satisfied customer and even increase business.7 So claims Chris Lane, chairman of Time Manager International, which makes personal organisers. Mr Lane is addressing the next Continuing Business Education meeting at Aston Business School,

Birmingham. The announcement from meeting's sponsors Grant Thornton, was titled. "A Complaint is a Gift" and was dated [April. A spokesman insisted yesterday

Rude funeral directors. ashes lost in the post and speeding hearses are just some examples of the bad service bereaved families have suffered, according to

the first report from the

UK's Funeral Ombudsman. The report describes a hearse that shot through a town at 40 mph while ignor-

ing all traffic lights.

One relative was sent to the wrong funeral for someone with the same surname. Other complaints concerned undersized coffins, paupers' graves and brusque funeral directors rushing through ceremonies. "It's a completely unregulated business anyone can set up a funeral business in their garage," Regina West, administrator of the voluntary Funeral Ombudsman Scheme, told Reuters. Since starting up in June 1994 Ombudsman Geoffrey Woodroffe had received 96 complaints from the 600,000 or so burials that have taken place, a number he reckons will increase once public awareness of his job

He offered compensation / to only five complainants, largely because half were against companies outside the scheme.

The Government was due to

publish the latest report from its Six Wise People yesterday morning at 11.30. The iournalistic herd arrived on the Treasury's doorsteps on until noon, without explanation. Were they late dotting the i's and crossing the t's after the Easter break? A Treasury spokesman said yesterday evening: "There was a short delay in getting the document to the relevant door." He added that the wire services had the report from eleven o clock in a "lock-up." No doubt suitable beverages were provided.

Eurotunnel bags 140,000 passengers at Easter



On target: Alistair Morton of Eurotunnel which claims a victory in war against ferries

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

Eurotunnel carried approaching 140,000 passengers on the car shuttle over the long Easter weekend, close to its own forecasts, as the price war with the ferries continued.

The company claimed its sys-tems ran "pretty effortlessly" with four trains an hour most of the time during the four day weekend, and that that 7,700 vehicles were carried on Thursday, just below the record of 8.400 the previous Saturday.

Eurotunnel said its cut price big attraction, taking passengers away from the ferries, and producing a 20 per cent increase in traffic in recent months as a direct result.

Last week Eurotunnel reported that the number of passengers carried rose 31 per

Stena recently offered a third off some brands in its duty-free shops. However, the ferries dis-

pute Eurotunnel claims that a but which produces a significant drop in ferry day trip traffic over part of its revenue. The the winter is due to Eurotunnel's cheap fags and booze.

A price war on duty-free hits at the ferry operators' most sensitive spot since much of their profit comes from these sales.

The marketing effort for Le Shuttle is also being stepped up with the award of part of the company's advertising business for the Le Shuttle train services to the London advertising agency BST-BDDP, in an effort to boost bookings with new ad-

duty free sales were proving a to relaunch Le Shuttle after technical setbacks and delays

last year hit ticket sales. The company's promotion drive was regarded as lacklustre until it started the duty-free price war.

There have been much stronger criticisms, however, of the marketing campaign by the operators of the Eurostar passenger train service, which does not belong to Eurotunnel

stepped-up advertising campaign was started by by Le Shuttle's new chief commercial officer, Bill Dix.

Polls had shown poor public awareness of both Eurostar ssenger trains and Le Shuttle's passenger and car services - though there was intensive TV advertising last year.

Around half of Eurotonnel's £10m marketing budget for 1996 will be handled by BST, while another agency. Wunderman Cato Johnson (WCJ), will continue to run the o and freight accounts, which includes British press, direct marketing and radio campaigns,

Le Shuttle's overall European marketing expenditure for this year is expected to total £20m. This includes campaigns in France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, promoting the Eurostar services to France and

Pendragon to be sole Alfa Romeo dealer within M25

TOM STEVENSON

Pendragon, the motor dealer spun off from Williams Holdings in 1989, has been granted the right to sell Fiat and Alfa Romeo cars across the Greater London region in a deal which observers believe marks a significant shift in the way cars are currently sold in Britain.

The award of a large region exclusive rights to sell the makes within the M25 - is a significant change from the current system which limits the number of franchise outlets any one dealer can operate within a given area. Potentially it offers successful groups big economies of scale and marks an important step towards the consolidation of the car retail industry.

According to Trevor Finn. chief executive of the Derby-

based group, the market area approach is based on a successful trial in the US, where General Motors launched a new car, Saturn, and distributed it through big geographical territories. The idea is that dealers set up a core network of about 4 per cent. outlets, building up as the number of the make's cars increases.

The new system also allows a better allocation of resources within an area. If, for example, ber of used cars of a certain make, but little demand for new cars, a service centre can be built without the extra unnecessary cost of a new car showroom. Within London, Pendragon

troduction of new models from

plans to build 15 Fiat locations, of which three will be service only outlets. Alfa Romeo will be represented at nine of the sites. Mr Finn said yesterday the in-

Fiat and Alfa Romeo had

perform the UK market significantly. Sales of Fiat cars increased in the UK by over 20 per cent last year, and have risen

The Fiat agreement is the second time Pendragon has been awarded the right to sell a make over a large area. Last year it was signed up by Volvo territory which includes all areas within the M25 south of the river Thames. Four dealerships are now open for business in that chain and another will open in June after refurbish-

Pendragon's concentration on the luxury end of the car market paid off last year when pre-tax profits rose 17 per cent to £11.3m, despite a difficult market for car sales.

equity should make no difference to a foreign cash bidder.

It is more than likely there will be further bids. But the reason is the sim-

pler one that these companies do not have the strengths required to remain independent distributors as domestic

deregulation approaches in 1998. For

that reason they are worth holding onto.

Technology flotations got a rather tar-nished image last year as investors burnt their fingers on new issues such as

MDIS and MAID. There are many dif-

ferent aspects to the information tech-

nology sector, however, and it would be wrong to tar FI Group, in which

dealings start today, with some of the more blue-sky, speculative stocks. The applications and facilities man-

gement end of the market in which

FI specialises is a reliable, predictable

business, the quality of earnings it gencrates is improving as contracts lengthen and the market as a whole is

growing fast. The driving force behind

to run their computer systems.

That should pave the way for a con-

tinuation in the growth of FI's profits.

up from £1.3m in 1993 to £3.3m in the

year to April 1995. In the most recent

interim period ending last October, profits increased to £2.1m.

On the basis of forecast earnings per share of 11.3p for the year to the end

There is no faulting the timing of FT's

Newcomer FI

priced right

the timing was coincidental.

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section two

Dewhirst profits from Marks & Spencer THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

mal returns from the textile sector should take more than a second look at Dewhirst Group. In stark contrast to its peers. Dewhirst has used the recession to squeeze ever higher margins and profits out of the famously cutthroat business of supplying Marks & Spencer. The result has been a share price that has outperformed the rest of the textiles and apparel sector by nearly 680 per cent in the past five

years, even after yesterday's 3p diwntick to 186p. That reaction in the shares was a little perverse in view of another cracking performance from the group in the year to 12 January. Pre-tax profits up 31 per cent to £22.3m were in line with market expectations and came after a year in which rivals have blamed strong raw materials prices and the hot sum-mer for less than sparkling results.

It is hard to pin down a single factor for this performance other than simple good management, which is something of a surprise in a company still dominated by the founding family. Including the honorary president, there are still four Dewhirsts on the board and the family controls a quar-

ter of the equity.
But sentimental considerations did not prevent Dewhirst reorganising its UK manufacturing base early on in the recession, a move which has stood it in good stead. While others, notably leading M&S supplier Coats Viyella, are only belatedly attempting to source more clothing offshore, Dewhirst's overseas manufacturing operations have allowed it to undercut the competition and win market share.

With over 13 per cent of the market supplying M&S. it is reckoned to have narrowed the gap with second-placed Courtaulds Textiles to around one percentage point in 1995. Continued sales growth at last year's rates - 12 per cent in ladieswear and 15 per cent in menswear - should have Dewhirst snapping at Coats 20 per cent-odd share

The group's expansion overseas is being stepped up this year. After two years holding capital expenditure at just over £8m, the budget for 1996 has jumped to between £14m and £15m,

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON Profits of £25.5m this year would put with most of the money earmarked for

new plants in Morocco and Indonesia to replace existing third-party sources. Dewhirst sees nearly all its future assuming M&S maintains its grip on sales growth being met by overseas sup-plies, which could mean 50 per cent of the business being sourced from outside the UK by the year 2000.

Given the continuing fight for sales on the high street, this greater control left in the cold over a lower-cost manufacturing base may not help margins in the short run. around 3 per cent five years ago, the margin story is not over yet at Dewhirst. Last year saw operating margins rise to have reduced its stake recently to another 1 percentage point to 7.8 per under 0.3 per cent.

Cent. With raw materials prices stabil
As with the other three Recs still left ising, after rising between 5 and 7 per on the shelf without an approach - East cent last year, the omens are good.

Midlands, Northern and London cent last year, the omens are good.

5-year record

Tarbver (Si)

the shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 14. Still reasonable value,

Hang on to Recs

But, after more than doubling from If there is a bid looming for Yorkshire Electricity, nobody has told SBC Warburg. The investment bank is thought

Dewhirst Group : at a glance Market value: £242m, share price 186p 1.45

Pre-tax profits (Sm) Paragras der state marcel 2/1 Dividends per share (pence) Share price

speculation has driven the share price sharply upwards in the past few weeks. More informed observers in the City, including SBC Warburg, have had a

tough job explaining why. The most popular suggestion is that a bid for one or more of the four awaits only the verdict of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the PowerGen bid for Midlands Electricity and the National Power bid for Southern. The likely bidders, according to this story. simply want to see the small print of

the report before they make a move. The two bids were referred late last year and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is due to announce his decision in the next few weeks.

The only other big generator known to want a Rec. British Energy, cannot do anything at the moment because it is not to be privatised until June. It is questionable whether it could afford a Rec, even with the lower-than-expected debt level with which it is to be sold. The result of the inquiry and Mr Lang's decision is likely to be irrelevant any of the overseas bidders rubeen an increasing trend towards outmoured to be still snooping around the sourcing of information technology functions, Companies have decided that an issue with them. Other foreign bids were cleared with alacrity last year.

As for a counter-bid for Midlands

Southern, the only sensible time to do that was soon after the references were made. The bid timetable would have allowed shareholders to reach decision point well before Mr Lang's pro-nouncement on the PowerGen and National Power offers, an unbeatable

flotation, in the form of a placing of 7.9 million shares at 235p a share. Over the tactical advantage. But as with many of these movements, the share price may be telling past year the software and computer the right story for the wrong reason. services sector has outperformed the The four remaining Recs are only mar- market by a sizeable margin. ginally less attractive than those that have been sold.

Northern is often said to have of this month, the placing price rep-spoiled the chances of a bid by giving resents a price/earnings ratio of 21. That away so much cash to shareholders, and puts the shares in the middle of the raising its gearing. But the share price pack, cheaper than Capita, more exadjusts for that, so the mix of debt and pensive than Logica. About right.

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The corrections on the other side of the Atlantic were always

pronounced anyway because the bull run in equities has been much stronger over

likely to be more

there than here'

ment, and not just on the jobs front, is much more apparent in the US, making the next move in interest rates there more likely to be upwards to counter an inflationary threat The Treasury's Six Wise People - with the usual exception of Patrick Minford - may think that the UK is also heading for a tight-

financial markets have succeeded in de-

100 responded to Monday's sharp fall in the

Dow with a 3 point rise while bonds hardly

There are compelling reasons why Britain

and the rest of Europe should not slavishly

follow Wall Street. The corrections on the

other side of the Atlantic were always likely

to be more pronounced anyway because the

bull run in equities has been much stronger

But more significantly, the US and Europe

are clearly at quite different stages in the

cycle. The evidence of economic improve-

budged at all.

over there than here.

ening in monetary policy.

But yesterday the market preferred to concentrate on the less than compelling case for higher interest rates contained in the latest output figures which point to sluggish growth and the need for a cut if anything in the cost of borrowing.

Moreover, there are electoral cycles as well as economic ones. It is looking increasingly unlikely that the Government will be companies, are far too complicated, and merely repeat many of the obvious mistakes

Wall Street sneezed and London shrugged. The extent to which British while keeping inflation within the 2.5% tar-

coupling from those in the US was amply demonstrated again yesterday as the FT-SE The Treasury Panel says as much but faced with a choice between the two it points to the need to raise rates to choke off an incipient rise in inflation.

It may be that the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke puts more store by his inflation target than his growth forecast. But whether a Prime Minister with one eye on a vanishing Parliamentary majority and the other on electoral survival agrees is another matter.

A further rate cut to accelerate growth at the expense of a gentle nudge upwards in inflation may be a temptation that is too hard to resist. The outcome of the Tamworth byelection this Thursday may tell us whether the Government is in the mood to succumb.

Labour sees light on media ownership

here are welcome signs from the Labour I front bench that competition policy rather than cumbersome thresholds and ceilings might guide an eventual Labour Government in the development of rules on media ownership.

The Government's current efforts to liberalise the media sector, which have fuelled a sharp share price rise among the affected

aimed at getting around the rules. The same will happen again this time.

London keeps its head as Wall Street sneezes

Far better would be to use tough competition policy to weed out near-monopolies and curb market abuses, leaving companies to get on with the business of building truly

competitive media conglomerates.

The effect of the current proposals on media cross-ownership is perverse. Two large newspaper groups are singled out for special treatment under the proposed rules Rupert Murdoch's News International and the Mirror Group, owner 43 per cent of the Independent. Neither will be able to own more than 20 per cent of an ITV company But News International is unlikely to want any more TV – certainly not of the tradi-tional, terrestrial kind. Through BSkyB, it has already spent billions building a near-monopoly in pay-TV in the UK, where the growth rates far outstrip those in the com-mercial from TV husiness. I ackies the mercial "free" TV business. Lacking the scale of a News International - which is part of Mr Murdoch's \$10 billion parent company

 Mirror Group cannot afford to build an equivalent pay-TV presence from scratch.
 Far easier would be to invest in an ITV company, providing it with a balance to its newspaper interests. But it will be constrained from doing so under the Broadcasting Bill.

Much bigger companies, including Asso-ciated and United-MAI, escape the crossownership limits, because their newspapers the Daily Mail is not more influential than the Daily Mirror? Labour is suggesting a far more robust set of rules governing com-mercial activities - surely a better approach. In the first instance, Labour intends to propose an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill in the Commons, just as it did in the Lords,

to raise the ceiling from 20 to 25 per cent, thereby freeing Mirror Group.

This is unlikely to be accepted by the Government. But if Labour gets in expect a real change in the way media is regulated. Market concentration, and not artificial limits and thresholds, will be the acid test.

Ominously near a coup over pensions

Martin Broughton, the chief executive of BAT, along with other leading CBI figures including Sir Richard Greenbury, is close to pulling off an unwelcome coup over directors' pensions disclosure. They appear to be isolating the National Association of Pension Funds in the argument over how dis-

closure should be implemented.

To recap on this arcane but important little debate, Sir Richard's report on top pay last year recommended disclosure of the annual increase in value of directors' pensions, rather than the cash cost to the company in pension contributions.

In Brief

Actuaries assumed that meant disclosing the capital value, which in the case of a large pay rise such as the 75 per cent awarded to Cedric Brown at British Gas would mean admitting in the company's annual report to a multi-million pound benefit. Of the original participants in the Greenbury report. only the NAPF appears to be firmly committed to the principle of disclosing capital

The idea rang alarm bells not just in boardrooms and corporate public relations departments but also in government, which would face a rerun of fat cat headlines as the election approaches.

This would be a gift to Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, who made so much political capital last year out of directors' pay. Not surprisingly, he backs disclosure of cap-

ital values. The CBI's alternative is to disclose not the capital value but the increase in the annual retirement pension earned by a director during each financial year, a number that will rarely run above six figures. With the Stock Exchange likely to fall into line and the actuaries themselves not as united as they first

appeared, the game is nearly over.

But shareholders, for whom the accounts are written in the first place, should not give up because this is an important issue of principle. Capital values are the by far and away the most meaningful disclosure when it comes to large future pension liabilities, and anything else is a fudge.

FD steps down at Harrisons

JOHN WILLCOCK

A "personal disagreement" be-tween finance director Martin Anderson of Harrisons & Crossfield and the rest of the board resulted in him resigning yesterday "by mutual agreement.

We agreed jointly that we should part company," Har-risons' chief executive, Bill Turcan, said. A company source insisted there was no suggestion whatsoever of any impropriety, but that there had been personal disagreements in what was a "small, closely-knit manage-

Mr Anderson's total emoluments last year were £191,000. since he is on a two-year contract he might receive a pay-off of nearly £400,000. But details will only be revealed in the 1997 accounts due next year.

Mr Turcan was Harrisons' finance director before Mr Anderson and played a key role in his recruitment.

Mr Anderson joine years ago from a merchant banking background and was heavily involved in the company's switch to acquisitions - it is expected to spend between £200m-£300m over the next few years.

Company sources said the acquisition plans, which will focus the conglomerate on chemicals and timber, would go ahead despite the resignation.

Harrisons's shares fell 9p to 148p yesterday. Analysts said that this was also the day when the company went ex-dividend. The grossed-up dividend was worth 6.75p.

Consumer body savages watchdogs

industrial Correspondent

The Consumers Association has called for a radical overhaul of "confused" utility regulation, including changes in legislation to give customers more rights. The association's hardest-hitting attack to date on regulation emerges in a submission to the Hansard Society and is a forerunner to the association's own review of the former nationalised utilties, due for publication later this year.

The report by the association argues that consumer protection should be the principal goal of regulation but that under the present statutory framework this is clearly not the case".

It criticises the extent to which it is left to the discretion of individual watchdogs to weigh the importance of consumers against promotion of competition and the ability of companies to finance core functions. The association demands changes to limit the freedom of regulators to depart from the objective of protecting consumer interests.

"The present legislative framework is characterised by a confusion between ends and means. While the development of greater competition within the utility industries is clearly very important, it should not be viewed as a goal in itself but as a mechanism for ensuring that firms face incentives to improve their efficiency and. through inter-firm rivalry, to pass such cost savings on to their

customers. The association also attacks the regulators for lack of openness in their decision-making.



Jeers and cheers: lan Byatt (left) of Ofwat was criticised while Don Cruickshank of Oftel won some praise

seeming to accept the legitimate need for independent scrutiny of its decisions on behalf of con-

At the same time the association notes that Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications watchdog, shows the strongest commitment to seeking out the views of the public. The association sharply crit-

icises non-disclosure of information about utilitity companies on the grounds of commercial confidentiality. "We are extremely concerned that excessive use of confidentiality claims It singles out Ofwat, the water is allowing operators to conceal

terests of consumer and the public in general."

A spokeswoman for Ian Byatt, director general of Ofwat, rebuffed the association's views, saying that Ofwat made "huge amounts" of information available and encouraged public debate. She added that it was only "right and proper" that com-mercial confidentiality be observed where it had been

requested by the company. The association launches its broadside against a background of public dissatisfaction over boardroom greed in the privatised companies and a view

industry regulator, for "not practices that are against the in- that the consumer is losing out. This would mean a sena. while shareholders are gaining handsomely. There has also been growing criticism that regulation is based too much on in-

dividual personalities. The Labour Party, while appearing unclear as to what it would do about the watchdogs, has made it plain the present framework would be unlikely to

continue if it comes to power. The association wants as a minimum in any future regime, that price regulation should be overhauled to force companies to reduce charges most in the provision of services where people have least choice.

Apple Computer is thought to be on the verge of signing a pact to allow IBM to license Apple Macintosh operating system. In-dustry sources said that the deal would be similar to an agreement which Apple signed in February with Motorola. IBM was expected to have the rights to sub-liceuse the Mac system to other computer makers seeking to develop Macintosh clones based on the PowerPC chip. An IBM spokesman declined to comment, but one source familiar with the talks said that the deal would provide "one-stop shopping" for companies seeking to clone the Apple Macintosh.

• The dollar set a 25-month high against the yen, reaching ¥108.35 in European trading. It also touched its highest level against the German mark, at DM1.4936, for two months. The move was driven by growing expectations that US interest rates will rise following Friday's report of a bigger than expected jump of 140,000 in employment last month. The dollar's rise dragged sterling along on its coat-tails. The pound closed more than one and a half pfennigs higher at DM2.2761, and rose 0.3 on its index against a range of currencies to 83.9.

Japan's economy is still on course for a gradual recovery, the Economic Planning Agency said yesterday. But it warned that growth remains fragile, with consumer spending picking up only very slowly. The government's ¥14 trillion spending programme, announced last September, has been the main factor behind the recovery so far, the EPA said.

 London's service sector saw business grow more quickly in the first quarter of 1996 than in any quarter since the start of the recession, according to a survey of some 250 London-based companies carried out by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The survey showed a record number of companies reporting increased domestic business.

There was also a big jump in business confidence with 68 per cent of companies expecting profitability to increase over the next

PhoneLink said its Tel-Me electronic information and commerce service had attracted more than 1,000 new business sites during March. New business sites in the first quarter of 1996 totalled 2,200 compared with 1,350 in the last quarter of 1995, an increase

Manufacturing orders in western Germany fell sharply in February, strengthening the case for a reduction in key official interest rates. Pan-German orders fell 1.4 per cent, driven by a 2.5 per cent drop in domestic orders. Foreign orders rose slightly. Unemployment figures due today are expected to confirm the economy's feeble state.

joyed a 20 per cent reduction. It warms: "Unless targeted price control is put in place, the ex-• Devro International is selling Devro America, its North American collagen sausage casings business, to Nitta Gelatin of Japan for a total of \$26m. The US Federal Trade Commission ruled that perience of residential telecom users is likely to be repeated in Devro had to sell the unit to maintain competition after its \$133.5m acquisition of Teepak.

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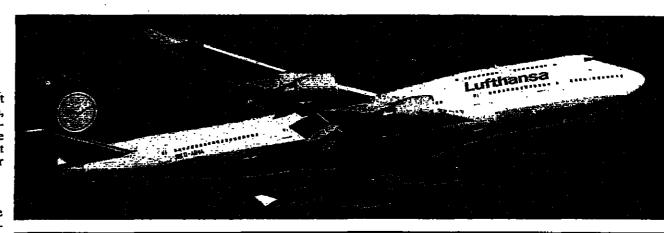
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completed by 31st July 1996. If you have any queries regarding this offer, please call the promotion enquiries helpline on 0345 252252 between 9am and 5pm including weekends and public holidays. Terms and conditions are as previously published.



price cap for residential cus-

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BT's average residential cus-

tomers have seen prices fall by

1 per cent between 1990/91 and 1994/95 while business en-

The association alleges that

help businesses.

gas and electricity."

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market report/shares

Investors back takeover favourites against Wall St

FT-SE 100 3758.6 +3.0 Shares contemptuously ig-nored Monday's New York FT-SE 250 4377.1 -8.2 blues, managing to end a lack-FT-SE 350 lustre session with a smattering of gains.
Gathering fears that the 1891.7 +8.4

DATA BANK

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

SEAQ VOLUME next US interest rate move will be up rather than down, a 619.6m shares, prospect which prompted the 40,328 bargains Dow Jones Average to slump Gilts Index 88.51 points, would, it was predicted, send the stock mar-92.27 -0.25 ket tumbling.

True, the FT-SE 100 index suffered an early, knee-jerk reverse but sentiment gradually improved allowing it to close 3 points higher at 3,758.6.

The stock market's resilience stemmed in part from the feeling that domestic rates are, in the near term, more likely to be influenced by German considerations than American. And Germany's economic gloom could encourage the Bundesbank to lower interest charges when it meets next week.

Another round of speculative activity also helped the market to banish the US gloom. As befits a dull day when trading is slow some of the old takeover stories were dusted down and given yet an-

ries swirled that Com-merzbank of Germany was about to buy the merchant bank with, for good measure, stockbroker Cazenove. It was enough to lift Schroders' voting shares 30p to 1,230p against a peak of 1.478p last ar - and the non-voting units

27p to 990p. British Gas was again unit-ed with British Petroleum by the rumour mill. Gas managed a small flare, up 4.5p to 239p, as BP rose 2.5p to 579.5p. Yorkshire Electricity added 12p to 869p as talk of a US

swoop continued to circulate. Pearson, in a firm media sector, gained a further 7p to 228p

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year

to 148p.

finance director Martin An-

Smith is expected to withdraw

from a number of peripheral

activities including its Our

Price music chain and its 50 per

cent interest in the Do-it-All,

has been edging towards the

sale of its main jewellery chains

for some months and is

thought to be on the verge of

completing at least one dis-

And Signet, the old Ramers,

do-it-yourself chain.

on break-up hopes but Thorn EMI continued to drift from last week's peak, retreating 12p to 1,778p. Reed Interna-tional improved 20p to 1,184p. Tales of possible share buy-

backs and special dividends were another source of excitement. Renters, thought to be preparing a buy-back, firmed 9.5p to 766.5p; Great Universal Stores 12p to 696p and Associated British Foods 4p to 407p.

Amersham International,

the health-care group, responded to reports that Richard Lapthorne, finance director at British Aerospace, was to become non-executive el for more than two years.

Granada, meeting analysts today, drifted 3p to 794p. It will be subjected to close questioning about the integration of Forte and its claim of a £100m profit enhancement. to 965p. But the departure of The proposed sales of unwanted Forte hotels and othderson from Harrisons & er assets will also come under Crostield clipped the shares 9p scrutiny. Granada is due to re-port interim results in June. Disposal hopes lifted WH Smith and Signet. Under new chief executive Bill Cockburn

The market's preoccupa-tion with football was illustrated by a 22p jump to a 315p peak by Manchester Utd following the Easter results. But the growing threat of relegation to the second division clipped 0.25p from Millwall to 2.5p. Its hopes of blossoming into a me-dia group are likely to be damaged if the club cannot cling to

its first division status. comments Analytical spurred chosen stocks. Kleinwort Benson added 3.5p to

477p, a 12-month high, and Signet rose 2p to 31p, best levsome of the banks were tickled a few coppers higher by broker recommendations. Louriso edged ahead 3.5p to 214p on talk Anglo-Ameri-

can, South Africa's biggest mining group, was near lifting its 5.9 per cent interest by buying shares from Dieter Bock, the German who runs the sprawling trading group.
Avocet Mining, floated last
week at 240p, fell 16p to 227p.
Diploma, the electrical dis-

tributor, held at 413p as Nat West Securities cut its profit forecasts from £28.8m to £75.4m and £31.4m to £26.8m. Aivis, the defence group,

added op to 163p following an ency cross of 80,000 shares at 161.5p but virtual reality group Superscape VR took another tumble after last week's profit warning, falling 3Sp to 560p. Pan Andean, awaiting a Bolivian drilling report, recovered 9p to 75p.

TAKING STOCK

Shares of Waverley Mining, which switched from an investment vehicle to a mining company last year, remain short of friends at 91p They have fallen from a 132p peak in the past year. Williams de Broe, the stockbroker, estimate assets ranging from coal mines in Scotland to gold mines in Australia - are 145p a share and the group is underval-

Chartfield Fund Manage ment made its debut on the fringe Ofex share market. slipping 5p to 85p. Formerly traded on the old 4.2 market Chartfield, run by Mark Flawn Thomas, takes in form unit trusts including the Waverley Penny Share Fund which has led the smaller company trust section for three years. The trust was at

E

chairman with a 26p advance posal. Smith gained 13p to AMJJASONDJEMA Share Price Data Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/centings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

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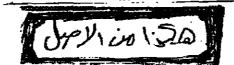
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Now the Inland Revenue is jumping on the out-forcing bandwagon. Like companies, entire industries, local authorities and government departments before it, the Revenue has started contracting out its work to the self-employed - only this time the self-employed won't be paid for the extra work they do.

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Under self-assessment, which begins this month, millions of people will have to calculate their own tax returns, rather than expecting civil

servants to do it for them. Not that the Inland Revenue has ever worked out the tax bills for most people in the economy - employees all have their dues calculated by weary employers under the Pay As You Earn system.

But the fact that the Inland Revenue is now expecting the self-em-ployed to do the same is a sign that they too have recognised the big changes taking place in the labour market as more and more people stop being "employed" and start working for themselves instead.

Self-employment grew by a remarkable 1.2 million in the 1980s. Even despite the recession, the numbers of self-employed today are still considerably higher than 16 years ago. Around one in eight of the working population are now their

The Government would like to believe this is evidence of a more entrepreneurial culture in Britain these days, as the self-employed build their businesses and create jobs for

others. Management gurus such as Charles Handy suggest instead that indexing is done by freelances. we are watching the development of the companies and work patterns of the future, as highly skilled white col-

ECONOMIC VIEW YVETTE COOPER

The truth about the current growth in self-employment may be less glamorous than either would like to believe. Certainly there has been an increase in the numbers of professional and freelancing self-employed who show little sign of ever creating work for anyone else. Around two-thirds of the self-employed have no employees at all. Meanwhile 6 per cent of professionals are now working from home.

'The best, most professional workers are never available when you

need them most'

The publishing and media indus-

tries are particularly suited to the use Most book publishers are already employing in-house staff only to com-

mission, supervise and co-ordinate, while their proof-reading, editing and National newspapers and television companies increasingly use

lar workers and professionals become freelances and sell their services to their former employers.

And they have cut their staff accordingly. Professional skills from legal advice to economics to information technology are all increas-

ingly suited to freelance work.

The benefits to businesses who introduce these working practices are relatively obvious. Staff members cost the company in additional National Insurance contributions.

Overheads - in terms of desks, office space and equipment - all add to the bill. But the biggest benefit to the company comes through transferring the risk that future work

might dry up. When everyone is on staff, they still have to be paid in a lean period. In the world of contracting out, it is the freelances who have to go out scavenging for different contracts to

keep the bills paid.
So here is the new world emerging - in certain industries at least. Professional skills are bought in rather than employed. Highly skilled people are paid for their knowledge and their services rather than for the hours they put in - an arrangement that is potentially extremely liberating for many professionals.

Mr Handy paints a portrait of portfolio workers, constructing combinations of contracts to suit themselves. But it is not yet clear whether these new work patterns will turn into the long-term trends that Mr Handy

Many of these professional free- Key sector: Freelancing is growing in the media industry

600% Discount Su00% Prime 8.75% Discount Belgium on 3.80% Canada Prime 700% Spein Central Su00% Discount 500% Discount Fed Funds 5.25% Discount Central Su00% Discount 500% Discount Spein Central Suanda Denmark Suanda Sunda Sunda

Nethertanda Denmark Sweden Discount 150% Advances 3.00% Discount 3.75% Repo (Ave) 7.60% Lombard 4.125%

Interest Rates

Bond Yields

lances do not yet have a portfolio existence. And even if individuals been paid more for taking on the new risks themselves. Not so. Ms Stanmanage to adjust and are happy with these new arrangements there are longer-term problems in the industries that have most whole-heartedly embraced freelancing so far.

In an article in the spring issue of New Economy, Celia Stanworth describes a detailed case study of free-lances in the publishing industry. Interviewing 371 freelance editors proof readers and indexers, she finds that while many were women who had turned freelance on starting a family, most had become selfemployed following redundancies from publishing houses.

And they were typically dependent on one main client, often their former employers. In effect, many of them were doing the same job for the same company as before. Only now, their tax status, their security, and their place of work had changed.

If these new freelances had retained the same bargaining power in

worth finds their hourly rate remained roughly the same as their in-house colleagues. Out-sourcing to freelances was simply a way for publishing houses to push real wages down, when faced with an over-supply of qualified publishing profes-

Imagine for a moment however that those freelance skills were suddenly hard to come by. A desperate editor with a deadline looming is forced to spend hours on the phone trying to find people with the free time and experience to do the work. The best, most professional workers are never available when you need

And should, heaven forbid, a crisis occur where a piece of work has to be revised at the last minute, there are no available staff willing to work all weekend to turn things around.

Suddenly out-sourcing looks a lot less attractive. Sensible compa-



S of working population

steady and reliable supply of high quality work. Contracts, retainers and even staff jobs all slip back onto the

Even in the publishing industry this sort of skills shortage may not be so far away. Ms Stanworth finds that three-quarters of the freelances she interviewed were over 40, a third were over 50. Most spent many years building up experience and contacts, working full-time in the

publishing industry.

In contrast, those without experience who tried to break into freelancing found it very hard to get

Clearly, the publishing industry is revelling in a time-limited labour market phenomenon: over-supply of experienced professionals. But no one is providing the training and experience for the freelances and port-

folio workers of the future. Across the media it may not matter too much if the next generation doesn't ever spend a decade or two acquiring experience with a single company.

The skills needed may advance so proposition.

fessionals in, to ensure they have a fast, that portfolio professionals will just update their experience with regular courses and secondments instead. But the short-termism and the problems for training revealed in the publishing industry are a good guide to why other industries have rejected the model entirely.

Widespread out-sourcing is a far cry from the stakeholding companies advocated by economist John Kay. He describes successful companies as networks of loyal relationships between suppliers, employees, investors, managers and customers. The political enthusiasm for freelancing is even more limited.

Despite the obvious advantages for women who want to combine their work with family commitments, the growth of freelancing and temporary contracts are seen as the source of middle-class anxiety about job insecurity. But the long-term prospects for the new self-employed will depend not on the advice of politicians or economists, but on whether the training structures and the labour supply of the future make the use of freelances a sustainable business

Foreign	Exc	hang	e Rat	es			
Sterling				Dollar			D-Mark
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
us	15250	8-6	22-19	1000	_		06703
Canada	20698	11-3	50-37	13573	2-1	2-0	0.9098
Germany	2.2750	55-48	157-147	14918	28-26	80-76	10000
France	7.7436	140-118	371-340	50778	64-57	164-154	3,4038
Haly	23916	75-90	221-248	15683	57-64	170-182	105125
Japan	16505	75-70	225-218	108.23	45-44	136-133	725499
ECU .	12198	15-11	45-40	12503	7-8	23-25	0.5361
Belgium	46.741	12-9	34-29	30650	58-48	172-147	205456
Denmark	8.7833	138-95	411-317	5.7596	60-40	175-125	3,8608
Netherlands	25407	63-54	189-175	16660	32-29	96-91	1,1168
reland	0.9892	9-5	25-20	15735	3-6	6-10	0.4260
Norway	9.8501	116-64	329-233	84591	42-17	110-60	4.3297
Spain	19005	3 9- 48	117-134	124.63	32-36	97-105	835400
Sweden	10.237	9-15	23-34	6.7128	96-123	260-310	44998
Switzerland	18386	68-60	197-195	12056	38-35	111-105	0.8082
Australia*	19390	20-31	67-85	12715	19-21	54-56	0.8523
Hong Kong	tL793	101-61	224-170	7.7330	2-12	15-35	5:1837
Malaysia	38629	0-0	0-0	25331	4-14	60-80	18980
New Zealand	22337	43-57	133-156	14646	30-32	88-90	0.9817
Saudi Arabia	5.7195	0-0	0-0	3.7505	2-7	9-14	25141
Singapore	21462	0-0	0-0	14073	41-30	103-88 أ	09434
Other S	inot	Rate	<u> </u>			:	

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Other	Spot R	ates					* -
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Austria	15,9991		0.4912	Omen	0.5	5873	03850
Grazii	15092		0.9693	Pakistan	52.6	3990	345454
China	12,7097		8.3315	Philippine	s 40£	2291	262400
Egypt	5.1934	1	34066	Portugal	234	L164	153550
Finland	7,1238		46698	Catar	5.	5515	38415
Ghana	2408.71	- 1	580.00	Plassia	748	34:10	490600
Greece	368.225	2	41380	South Afri	ica 63	3461	41600
India	52.0026	3	41000	Taiwan	41/	4768	271890
Kuwait	0.4570	- 1	12996	UAE	5.6	033	36731
rate quoted *Dollar rate:	es quoted high a low to high a s quoted as n st fonsion excl	re et a pr eciprocal	श्चानंद्रवातः इ.	6	dd to spo	om spot rate t rate	•

Country	Syr	yield %	10yr	yield %	Country	Syr	yield %	10yr	yield '
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US	51/%	639	5486	658	Spain	101/5%	882	10.15%	946
Japan	64%	222	3 %	331	italy	101/8	10:10	101/%	105
Australia	84%	8.75	10%	997	Belgium	74%	551	61/%	87
Germany	578	519	6%	644	Sweden	11%	789	6%	852
France	57%	571	7786	659	ECU OAT	9%%	620	7 %	7,06
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uty 1019	July	1822	Sept	110.55	Jun	105.00	Jun	24
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vier Maior	(No3)** S	T OTRE	1465	May/Jul	l Soy	aOMS FL	100kg	97.0
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*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033. Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.										
		_			Sell	Buy	Yīd			
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Cash Acc	1218 1001 1119	1218 1001 1124	d5.31	Conf Soft Cos (Accum Units)	65.61 69.23	8997 73.83	075 075			
Detribution Extre income GR & Fad Int	132.4 57.01	141.9 5003	d489 d823	Convertible (Accure Links) Emerging Markets	1400 2873 7002	1489 3167 7481	520 520 000			
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ing income Growth Trusts - UK Capital	136.0	1463	213	(Accum Units) Exempt Balanced	190.5 75.58 80.28	1998 7706 8186	259 259 259			
Growth Acc Leisure (2)	#00 1721 4778	4973 1840 5110	231 0.85 2.69	(Accum Units) Extra Income (Accum Units)	2890 3281	409.3 627.7	377 377			
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Giobal Growth -	148 <i>6</i> 212.7	58.2 226.8 1801	89 89	(Accum Links) Open Cap Gwith wins i	ng 12030	12220 12790	249 346 346			
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UK Streeter Cos Select Managers	9091 8793	99.95 94.27	25 810	FP Amer Smir Cos FP Asion Growth (Accum Units)	30070 312.70	32160 33440	000			
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5 8	Japan & Gen	4330	45.70		Latin America Latin America	n Gwth Inc	325
	(Accum Units) Japan Smaller Cos	48.50 162.0	4930 1607		Latin America Executi Fund	n Gwith Acc Ia	:326
4 17 10 14 12	(Accum Units)	1531	1819		UK Exempt		368.
10	Managed Growth Managed Income	2720 2990	28.70 31.40	186 d4.53	Oversees Exe		320£
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7 7	Recovery	4930	5190	284	Cash Havan A	E CC	TIGE
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5 5 7	Martin Currie Unit	Trusts Ltd			Inst Sen Co		96.7
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2	UK Growth	1179	7252	245	Tel: 01708-75590 Amer Inc & Ge		802
0	Asien Opportunities UK Smeller Cos	4212 59.55	4505 63.32	0.28 1.47	Amer Smir Co	6	148
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٠,	Deeding 0500 440000				Commodity		156 115
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ιl	Bridge	9795	10420	2.40	Emerging Muri Energy Inds	h	157. 231
8	Cash Acc Çash Income	6762 5088	6752 5088	52 52	Europeen Gwri Euro Inc & Gw		934
١,	Distributor	10300	109.57	d2.91	Euro Smilir Coli	3	719
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ì	Giobal	362.52	40894 15091	d034	High Income	-	423 119
۱ ۱	Growth Growth Acc	14,85 143,78	152,96	d245 d245	Gold & Explor High Return		252
.	Higher Income inc	30.90	32,87	d4.72	High Ylek		253
١ ١	Higher Income Acc	3623 25783	3929 27407	64.72 69.27	Income Inti Band		30 168
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;	Northern Rock High to		5000	- L	Southern Atrice Special Streets		647 153
- 1	Pembroke Administ 37-41 Bedlord Row, Lo	odon WČTŘ	434		USK Equity		283
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ı	Pembroka Growth	22990	2447	4000 4000	U.S. Growth	iwi)	584 208
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24	Dealing & Enquiries: 0131 2	25 327	ı	
26	I American	5235	565.2	
ñ	(Accum Units) British	817.7 2544	6551 13272	d296
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21	MENDER TOOM TERM ACC: 1	n6.59 84.97	12403 9039	443 330
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7	l (Accum Units)	7183	74.50	61
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_	Preference (Accum Units) 7	2615	13209 77698	d93 d33
9	Tionr :	32114	336.27	CSC.
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ē	(Accum Unes) 44	526	E23U3	23
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19	LSK Mid-Cap :	371.78	32647	425
2	(Accum Units) 5	9626	624.35	625
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PLAY FORMU DREAM TEAM



The latest scores and results

SCHEDULE April 28 no doubt who is the most valuable driver to have leading a May 19 Dream Grand Prix Team: Damon Hill's June 16 make him look very French GP good value even at £23m. His leading June 30 British GP pursuers, Jacques July 14 Villeneuve and Jean German GP Alesi, seem spell-July 28 bound behind him: Hungarian GP they can get close,

'96 RACE

Team Position

Check Line:

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Rules are as

previously published

and are available on

but they cannot get past. Belglan GP August 25 **Italian GP** September 8 Portuguese GP September 22 October 13



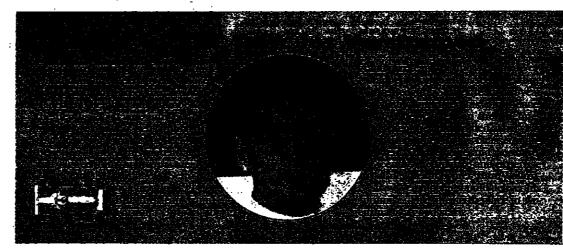
Main picture: Damon Hill leads the field on the first lap in Argentina. Above: Being congratulated by his wife, Georgie, after his victory.

Hill has so many assets: the reliability and speed of the Williams-Renault, his own experience and the back-up of Villeneuve to name but three. And he is using them with consummate skill, timing his fast runs in practice perfectly, and racing with a high cruising speed and just a little in hand should it be

needed. And so far this year pit-stop strategy, a weak-ness for Williams been immaculate. Villeneuve enjoyed himself in Argentifashioned racer and while he will have been annoyed to have dropped behind at the start of the race, his delight at having to dice

with and overtake

other drivers to succeed was transparent. "I lost a lot of places, but it was fun to fight and overtake them," he said after the race. Further down the field it was good to see strong contributions from two £10m men, Rubens Barrichello and Johnny Herbert, but the real bargain of the race was £3m-rated Andrea Montermini. The talented



Italian did well to qualify the re-calcitrant Forti-Ford, and then collected a bundle of Most-Improved points for keeping it circulating a the back of the field throughout. Team-mate Luca Badoer was not so fortunate, col-

lecting a minus score for parking his Forti upside-down in a gravel trap. And a word of sympathy for Pedro Diniz. He was a hot tip for Dream Team success last week, but ended up hot and bothered in Argentina when his Ligier caught fire

and Pedro had to bale out in a hurry. Luckily no more than a Bandaid was needed to repair him and he will join all the other contenders on the grid at the Nurburgring on 28 April for the European Grand Prix.

Grand Prix Shopping List

POINTS SCORE

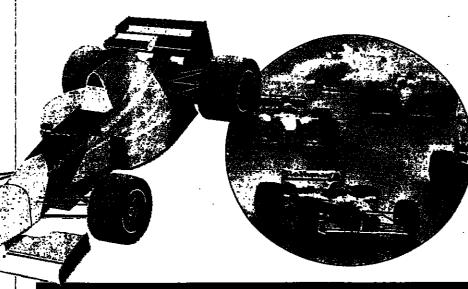
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WIN a drive in a Grand Prix car

Results & **The Dream Team** Top 50 manager with the highest Teams: 0891 891 number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Calls cost 39p per Championship season will minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all win our top prize - a drive other times.

> in a 650bhp F1 car. You will be flown to the AGS team's training

school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.



Dream Teams All teams are in equal 1st position with 161 points.

Bighill Racing

2 The Spoilers

3 Karvey Team Racing

BJ Werbangers Racing Team

Goody Gum Drops

The Williton After Burners

Herbert Grand Prix Team 1

Chapman's Charges 2

Tyrrells Tyrants

10 Prolapse Racing

11 Morgan's Team 12 Come On Dad

13 PJW Racing

14 Aliegro Racers

15 Eagles

16 Nick's Nitros

17 Mark's Merry Men

18 Visa F1

19 The Tarmac Eaters

20 Slipstream

21 Hill's Angels

22 Peter's Perfect First

23 Formula Feel Good

24 Hipala Racing Team

26 Driving Force Racing

25 Blue Healers

27 Riley's Radicals

28 Apricom Fun House

29 No More Excuses Grand Prix

30 Mug Chanders

31 Dodds 2

32 Brad's Blazers

33 PDA Racing 34 Puerto Rico Team

35 Boy Racers Blues

36 Mortal Kombat

37 The Pace Setters

38 DB Racing

39 Burton Yamaha

40 The Day Stormers

41 Simon's Perfect

Pitstop 42 Hot Dogs

43 The Wiggly

Wagglies 44 Now or Never

45 Up The Hill Round The Bend

46 Kayson

47 Martin

48 Ring Road Rebels

49 Chris's Wacky Races

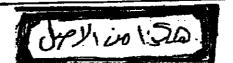
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40 Benetton £18m £15m £14m 45 Jordan 46 Ligier 48 Arrows 49 Minardi

ENGINES £18m £15m £12m £10m

JOIN 23,000 READERS WHO ARE PLAYING FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM



French have new clear Classic hope in Tahiti

four-year-old colt by Affirmed out of Narwala Progressed into a smart stayer last season, winning four races including a Group 2 at Long-

Sent - Wallet

Grand Prix

Shopping List

POINTS SCOR

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Liber

champ and Group 3 over nearly two miles at Deauville. Only seventh behind Celtic Swing in the Prix du Jockey-Club and fifth to Classic Cliche in the St Leger, but can improve further and become a contender for races like the Ascot Gold Cup. (Trained by A Fabre for Sheikh Mohammed) ASHKALANI

three-year-old coit by Soviet Star out of Ashtarka Unbeaten half-sister to Prix du Cadran winner Shafaraz. Won Longchamp maiden in October and impressed in landing the Group 3 Prix Thomas Byron at Saint-Cloud the following month. Should stay beyond a mile and is expected to prove

one of the Aga Khan's best three-year-olds. (Trained by A de

HYPERION

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course. A sharp track with tight bends.

Raccourse is cast of the city on B6205. ADMISSION: Club \$12; Tattersalls \$8; Silver Ring \$4; Course \$2 (accompanied under-16s free all enclosures).. CAR PARK: Car and up to four occupants in course enclosure \$8; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cecil – 16 where a from 34 runners at a vado of 47.1% giving a return to a \$1 level stake of +\$4.70; J Berry – 16 wheren, 120 runners, 13.3%, -\$25.52; M Johnston – 14 watners, 50 runners, 17.5%, +\$17.00; J Gosden – 11 winners, 43 runners, 25.5%, -\$8.06; M Stoute – 10 winners, 42 runners, 23.5%, +\$0.86; M Stoute – 10 winners, 42 runners, 25.6%, -\$8.06; M Stoute – 10 winners, 42 runners, 70 runners, 16.4%, -\$14.10; P Haslam – 3 winners, 70 runners, 11.46. -\$18.96

11.4%, +5.5.25.

ILEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley - 30 winners, 148 rides, 20.3%, -50.83; W Ryss - 17 winners, 71 rides, 23.9%, -\$10.20; J Wesver - 16 winners, 73 rides, 21.9%, +\$17.44; R Connorton - 11 winners, 56 rides, 24.1%, +\$19.61; N Connorton - 11 winners, 56 rides, 11.6%, -\$22.43; J Carrell - 11 winners, 37 rides, 11.3%, -\$4.32.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Pip's Dresss (4.10) won at Leicester last April; 70 The Roof (3.10) won at Musselburgh last April, 70 The Roof (3.10) won at Musselburgh last April, 70 The Roof (2.10) won at Musselburgh last April, 70 The Roof (3.10) won at Musselbur

2.10 EBF SPA WELTER MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 270 5f Penalty Value £3,453

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Table 1
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FORM CLUDE

FORM GUIDE

PRINCE OF PARKIES is from a stable which has had a couple of juvenile winners this season and the selection, by 1981 Gimcrack here Full Extent out of a Whidjammer mane, should be able to go a bit. Mark Johnston's Double Park is by Middle Park winner and Two Thousand Guineas numer-up Lyous out of a mare by Danzig. Reg Hollinshead, who won with the juvenile Lawfull Find at Castienck last month, runs the Danehull Bly Danahill Princess and William Ryan teams up for his old gurhor on this one. David Evans, whose West Ees Girl land-of the buo-year-old race at Notingham last week, runs the visored Bold African. Mick Easterby's The Bae Man, a son of Superpower, and Bryan McMahorts The Gay Fox, by Newber So Bold, are bred for speed.

2.40 MARKINGTON SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 4f 60yds Penalty Value £2,742

- 18 declared
**Efficient - 100. True handicap religible Don't Cy 7st 5b, Syban Celebration 6st 12b.

**Efficient - 22 Boid Persuit, 5 Geodroy religible, 13-2 Boid Top, 8-1 Watch Me So, 10-1 Adaloaido, Remondant, Combert Legend, 12-1 Dots Dee, High Flows, Portite Sophie, 14-1 Dor't Cry, Lesus, Walborth Ledy, 16-1 Can She Can Can, Symoraik Hero, 20-1 others.

1995: Merry Mermad 5 8 5 K Falion 7-2 () F Bottoniay) 17 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GLIDE

BOLD PURSUIT comes here is as good form as any, having won a similar event, at Beverley by more than two lengths 11 days ago. Jenny FicGerald's charge, who won four off the reel in 1994 but was disqualitied in the last of them, can confirm latest running with Bold Top (beaten almost four lengths in third and 8th better off), fifth-piaced Can She Can Can (also 8th better) and last morth's Southwell scorer Adabasido (minth and only 3th better). Goodbye Millie has a good winning record, mainly in claimers, and will be sharper for her secent Musselburgh run behind lifternan – her first since last october when third to Shebarar at Redicar – Adabasido eighth. Comtec's Leighed is fit from all-weather action and comes from John Bottomiey's yard, which won this with Meny Mermad last season. Lexons tas not raced on the Flat since September but will also be fit, having run second behind had Talk No Action over hurdles at Folkestone last month. Resnostant, from Reg Hallinshead's stable in form, could go well.

3.10 FOUNTAINS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,750 added 6f Penal-

GOING: Good. STALLS: straight course – stands' side; round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Nooe.

BOLD AFFICAN (D Maloney) P Evans 9 0

4.10 Express Gift

4.40 Lost Lagoon

Rover-Dupre for Aga Khan)

RIPON

2.10 Double Park

3.10 To The Roof

2.40 Bold Top

three-year-old filly contest at Saint-Cloud by six lengths last month. Referring to her 1992 1,000 Guineas winner, her trainer describes A Votre Sante as "Hatoof Mark Two". Could run in the 1,000 Guineas, although the French equivalent is more likely. Her grandam, Mrs Penny, won the Prix de Di-

ane and Prix Vermeille so

should get further than a mile.

(Trained by Mme C Head for Marshall W Jenney)

CARLING four-year-old filly by Garde Royale out of Corraleja Did The Independent's French 12-to-follow proud last season in landing the Prix de Diane and Vermeille. Returned with a satisfactory second to Valanour in the Prix d'Harcourt at Longchamp on Sunday when firm going was against her. (Trained by Mme C Barbe for T Yoshida)

Matt Chapman on this season's cross-Channel challengers

races in Europe at a strike-rate of over 32 per cent. Although betting on this year's British Clas-sics is dominated by the home trained horses, Albaarth and Bosra Sham, Celtic Swing held a

chance of improving on that tally. Fabre, with 11 Group One wins in 1995, dominates the train-ing ranks, but there is a strong word for Crishuflarly lofty perch in 1995 yet was toppled in quette Head's 1996 team, and John Hammond, the 2,000 Guineas by André Fabre's Pennekamp.

He, along with Sunsback and Cherokee Rose Lellouche are also to be feared in the main events.

three-year-old filly by Blushing John out of Northern Trick Third on only juvenile start in a good Longchamp maiden. Held in high regard and should make mark in useful company over a mile and a half this season. Comes from a quality family - dam was second to Sagace in the 1994 Arc – and has an Oaks entry. (Trained by J Pease for S Niarchos)

DARK NILE three-year-old colt by Riverman out of batapa Like A Votre Sante, Dark Nile

Longchamp on Sunday, setting a course record. The aims are the Prix Lupin and Jockey-Club, and his owner said: "After that we might go for the King George at Ascot." (Trained by E Lellouche for E Sarasola)

three-year-old colt by Fairy King out of Helice Unraced at two, Helissio has made a big impression on his two starts this season, landing a maiden by 10 lengths at Evry last month and then defeating Arbatax by four lengths in the could hardly have scored in bet- Group 2 Prix Noailles at

more likely option. (Trained by suggests a mile and a quarter A Fabre for D Wildenstein) MISS TAHITI three-year-old filly

by Tirol out of Mini Luthe A possible Oaks contender. Miss Tahiti is considered "top class" by Fabre and is being targeted at the French 1,000 Guineas before either the Prix de Diane or a trip to Epsom. Won the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp last season and Daniel Wildenstein owned the only filly to date to have won both the Marcel Boussac and Diane, Allez France. (Trained by A Fabre for D Wildenstein)

SPINNING WORLD three-year-old colt by Nureyev out of Imperfect Circle start, in a maiden at Deauville,
The first foal of Cheveley Park and is nominated by his train-Stakes runner-up Imperfect Circle, Spinning World won a maiden at Longchamp in Oc-

though the French Derby is a contender, although pedigree may be his best trip. (Trained by J Pease for S Niarchos) SWAIN

four-year-old colt by Nashwan out of Love Smitten Progressive colt who won five consecutive races in 1995 and was third to Lammtarra and Freedom Cry in the Arc. With that pair retired, Swain is a candidate for all the top races over a mile and a half and could also be an Ascot Gold Cup contender. (Trained by A Fabre for Sheikh Mohammed)

TA MATETE

three-year-old colt by Caerleon out of Triple Couronne Third on his only two-year-old start, in a maiden at Deauville, er as a horse to follow. Very well bred - from the family of Triptych - and should stay at least 10 furlongs. (Trained by A Fabre for D Wildenstein) Matt Chapman is a reporter with

Ingvall calls for **Mistral** deadline

Sailing STUART ALEXANDER

Ludde Ingvall, a skipper in the Grand Mistral round-the-world race, yesterday set the organisers a deadline of 1 May for assurances that the race will go ahead with sufficient boats in September.

"If there are not enough, then it might be better to postpone for a year, though that would mean clashing with another round-the-world race, the Whitbread, which begins in Sep-tember 1997," Ingvall said.

Alternatively Ingvall, who was yesterday showing off Nico-rette, his Grand Mistral 80footer, in Southampton Water. may link up with Grant Dalton. Marc Pajot and Loick Peyron. to bring pressure on the race director, Pierre Fehlmann. They want him and his backers to fund enough entries to make a minimum fleet of eight.

Seven of the identical yachts have been built with backing from the French regional government and Swiss banks, while Fehlmann's ally, Philip Morris, has been supporting his organisation of the race. Ingvall spec-ulated on the Grand Mistral and Whitbread joining forces, but this seems unlikely at present.

Today in Moscow, Tamil Tarpichev, chairman of the presidential committee for physical culture and sport, will announce backing for Russia 300 in the seventh Whitbread race. It will be skippered by Eugene Platon. who led the Hetman Sahaidachny campaign in the last race and is trying to sell the boat to 🤄 the Sussex 2000 syndicate headed by Jackie MacGillivary.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Footbali 7.30 unless stated

PHOSLEIGH BISURANCE LEAGUE FREST ONYSSION Millwest v Binninghens (7.45)

Adlived v Bindinghero (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
Celtic v Kitnernock (7.45)
Hearts v Rangers
ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Yending v Borolem Wood, Second Division: Lesthwhead v Bacthel, Carifon Trophy sent-flank Earthwy V Bruchel, Carifon Trophy sent-flank Earthwy Livingon D LEAGUE First Division: Bactford Park

ONLIDATE LEMBLE FIRE DEBINATE SAGRITY FAR Avenue v Congleton. President's Cup semi-final second leg: Barnber Bridge (D) v Worksop (1). BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Midland Division: Eve-BBAZER HOMES LEAGUE Middend Divisions Evo-rham Intend v Soffull Borough: Rocarg Cub War-wick v Rectation. Southern Division: Poole v Trouktrige. Dri Martinas Cup semi-final second leg: Solesbury (O) v Baldock (O). WINSTOMLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Darford v Comerbury, Faversham v Furness. FEDERADION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE Flast Division: Autrion v Winter Whotham v Durham.

NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Goole v Brigg. Wildrauon Sword Trophy sean-finel first leg: Louth v Pontefact. NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE First Division: Burscough v Trafford. AND UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pre

mier Division: Obgenhoe v Statiokt; Meriese Blackstonn v Eyerestury.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale v Afan Lido; Holyvest v Caemarion; Inter Caraft V Britan Ferry.

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:
Budies v Lossemouth; Cachmanadan v Fort William;
Core Rengins v Frasentungt; keith v Hurtly; Rothes
v Eign.

PONTINS LEAGUE First Divisions Describury v Neverton (7.0); Botton v Didham (7.0); Manchessier Utd
v West Bromaten (7.0); Notris County v Neverste (7.0); Section V Solve (7.0); Section Division: Aston Villa v Huddersfield (7.0); Backgood:
v Barneley (7.0); Lieussyn v Menchessor Cby (7.0);
Middlestrough v Port Vele (7.0); York v Preston
(7.0), Titles Division: Derington v Lincoln (6.30);
Donastar v Wigen (7.0); Rochdele V Strewsbury
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Sec v.u.). snars Division: Derington v Incoin (6. Doncester v Wigen (7.0); Rochdele v Shrews. (7.0); Sacrocaugh v Chesterded (7.0); Scaron v Chester (7.0); Stockport v Bury (6,45); W ham v Canada (7.0).

NAME AND A CORRESPONDING First Division: Bristol City v Tottenham; Bristol Rovers v Luion: Chelsea v Ipsawd (7.0) (ar. Krigstonian); Soudi-ampion v Odord Utd sat Marchwood; Seundon v Brighton (2.0) (ar. Witney); Wimbledon v Wadford (2.0). Second Division: Plymouth v Chelsenham; Torquey v Bournemouth (7.0).

Rugby Union

Speedway WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP British sessi-final (7.30) (at Poole). ER LEAGUE: Hull v Coventry (7.30); Long

TODAY'S NUMBER

The height in inches (6ft 8in) of the Scottish golfer Gordon Sherry, who tomorrow will become the tallest player in the history of the US Masters. Sherry is 1in taller than the previous "Augusta Giant". the American Phil Blackmar.



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HORNING LIVE THE THEFORK

by Irish River out of Mrs. Jenney Burst on to the Classic scene ignore the French at your peril. In the last three were winners at the highest level in Britain and seasons they have won 72 of the 221 Group One—with the leading Arab owners continuing to paraces in Europe at a strike-rate of over 32 per—tronise Chantilly stables, the French have ever when easily winning a Listed

CIEL DE FEU

THE SCYTHAN, who has not reced since a creditable fourth of the to Techumow at Sandown last July, at unlikely to fall through lack of fitness. His stable won a 20-numer sprint hand-loop with Canovas Heart, who was also making his reappearance, at Warwick on Monday and The Scythain himself was a first-time up winner last term - making most of the nunning to come home by two lengths over course and distance a year ago. He went in again over the trip here in May, following with a second to Midwich Cuckoo - also at this track. Castilenea Lad was successful at Doncaster, Ponteiract and Goodwood in 1995 and must go on the shortlast following his opening fourth of 21 to four-length soorer Anno at Doncaster, where Titler and last week's three-length Musselburgh winner To The Roof deadheated for thit-three parts of a length away, Perhand, Brecongill Lad, Anonym and Highborn were further in ameers and Reg Hollinshead's numer should again come out best of those who contested the Town Moor event. At Reat I, an Irish acquisition now in Micky Hammonds yard, stayed on to finish severatio of 24 when badly drawn in the Luncion and the return to spiriting shouldn't prove too much of an inconvenience. Steper Beatz has been in time form with three all-weather wins before his Cathenck success a formight back but he is up 98 for that. Beatzoe, who won at Thirsk in May and finished severation? 29 behind Royale Figurins in the Ayr Gold Cup - Palacoagusta Touch and French Gritt tenth and 21st - will be straigher for his Newscales.

3.40 GALPHAY STAKES (CLASS C) £7,750 added 3YO 1m 1f Penalty Value £5,003

SANTELIANA had Seturday's Kempton scorer Dombay threequarters of a length behind when third of 23 behind Astar Piace in a hot-looking made non his introduction at HQ last September. John Gooden's El Gran Senor cott went on to who his only subsequent start, at Mussiaburgh the following month. Selimits won on her debut at Follestone lest September and was nine lengths clear of the third when finding inchrory threequarters of a length too good in a four-runner race at Haydook the following month on his only other outing. Coyotae Bluff comes from Peter Chapite-Hyam's yard, which has made a bright start to the season. The Faynur gray, a farc-time winner at the San Siro last May, was implaced at Goodwood next time but ran third to Utita Barley at Wolverhampton on his only other appearance. Double Diamond won three times last year, twice at all-wasther meetings, and will be the better for his fourth to Le Sport at Wolverhampton last month.

Selection: SANTILIANA

4.10 STUDLEY ROYAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,250 added 1m 4f 60yds Penelty Value £3,096

-12 declared
-12 declared
SETTING: 4-1 Pig's Decam, 9-2 Forzak, 5-1 Express GRT, 6-1 Outstayed Welcome, 7-1 Asbayer

10-1 Keep Battling, Noble Canonire, 12-1 Bouclife, Hasta La Vista, 14-1 Outstay, 20-1 others

FORM CLUDE PBP'S DREAM provided Willie Carson with a rare 16-1 winner when storming home by four lengths over this trip at Lelcester last Thursday and Mick Ryan's mare can defy a 5to penal-

ty because that least success was in an apprentices event. Ashiover asso went in a southwest in January – by six lengths – but could menege only fourth of 11 behind Nr Morietty when 7-4 tenounte there the following morth after leading briefly five furiongs out. Express Gift, who has been hunding, ran a craditable third of 18 to Secret Service at Pomerizat, lest occupant and should not be far away. He represents Mary Reveley, whose Executive Design took the corresponding prass 12 months ago. Outstayed Welcome, six lengths clear of the thrut when bestern a length and a quarter by Haya Ya Kefasah in the opening race at Ooncaster, should have nothing to fear from Oakbury (14th).

Selection: PPS DREAM

4.40 GRANTLEY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m Penalty Value £3,794

FORM SUIDE

Henry Cacit, off the mark for the season with Magnificent Style at Kempton on Monday, can take this with LOST LAGOOK. The Reventen cold, half-brother to many winners including Over The Ocean (Free Handicap) and Quandary, has hed just the one race, finishing a good fourth of 18 to Polytemus at Sendown lest August. He is Pat Eddery's only ride at the meeting, Balkers' Batte, another lightly raced four-year-old, ran Mezzan to a length on his debut at Doncaster last May and finished a length and a half third of 18 to Hoh Express at Newbury ten days afterwards on his only other appearance. Politicesto went off fatouring when making his debut at Doncaster and was besten a couple of lengths by inslyab after leading briefly approaching the furlong pole.

5.10 SAWLEY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,250 added 3YO 1m 2f

Penalty Value £3.137

MUHTADN, aktiough unplaced in both races after his Ascot fourth to Moody's Cat in August, looks good enough even under joint top weight in his first handicap. He halls from John Dunkop's yerd, so should be itt enough. Note No Bounds deserved his Wolverhampton win

lest September, having been placed in his three previous outings and he could pose a threat despite finishing out of the frame in his last two stars. Strategic Ploy will be sharper for her Doncaster race and looks better than stablemate Etherby Park, while Phentous had did not an badly whe fourth to Crystal Fells at Doncaster last October on his permittings.

1995: Executive Design 3 9 7 K Darley 6-1 (Mrs. M Re

- 4 declared -BETTING: 1-2 Sentillana, 7-2 Selmis, 9-2 Coyote Stell, 6-1 Double Diemond 1995: Torrental 3 9 2 L Detton 4-7 (J H M Gosten) 7 ran

ter fashion on his seasonal de-but when landing the Listed Prix de Courcelles at Longchamp last week. "He has both stamina and speed and is the perfect type for the Prix du Jockey-Club," his trainer said. (Trained by Mme C Head for K.Abdullah) HELISSIO

LOUP SOLITAIRE three-year-old colt by Lear Fan out of Louveterie A surprise winner of the Grand Criterium last season but held

in high regard by Fabre who describes him as "my best threeyear-old and a colt of the highest quality". There is a small chance of Loup Solitaire

EXETER

GOING: Good to Firm.

HYPERION

Me in Mind 3.50 Karen's Typhoon 4.20 CONTI

Bight-hand, undulating course. Stiff test of standing.

☐ Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. ADMIRSTON: Grandstand & Paddock £9; Silver Ring £4.50 (accompanied under-16s free).

CAR PARK: 52 on rails; 52 members; remainder free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Coat! D'Estruve! (4,20)

won at Luckow last Wednesday. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Royal Square (4.20) sent 161 triles from G Harwood's Pulborough stable in West Sussex.

D'ESTRUVAL (nap) 4.50 Sheep Stealer

sant Surprise 2.50 Camino 3.20 Keep

tober and the Group 3 Prix Saint Roman at Evry the following month. Highly regarded and a lining up at Epsom in June, al- possible Prix du Jockey-Club the Racing Post

3.50 SAUNTON SANDS HOTEL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

4.20 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 3f 110yds

- 8 declared -BETTING: 11-10 Conti D'Estraval, 4-1 Seven Of Diamonds, 6-1 Jaibre Sydney Barry, 10-1 Wise Approach, Royal Square, 16-1 others

4.50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 2f 3/0F063 SHEEP STEALER (9) R Peacock 8 10 10 8 000665 RNOWGAR (299) Mes H Wright 5 10 5 ... 9- 304962 POLLY LEACH (19) 8 R Malmen 6 10 3 ...

BETTING-3-2 Missishi, 7-2 Aliabrakha, 9-2 Polly Leach, 6-1 Chris's Glen, 8-1 Raimagar, Queens Contractor, 10-1 others

Minimum weight: 10st. Your handicap weights: Special Account 9st 11b, Royal Piper 9st 10b, Steough 8st 13b; Radio Carabine 7st.
BETTING: 3-1 Keep it Zipped, 5-1 Aliez Wijlins, 8-1 Bell Staffboy, Ulma,
10-1 Torr Leader, Dockmaster, 12-1 others.

4.00 COMMANDERY AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 2f

22.0010 22M0RAH (23) N Tresson-Dakes 7 11 4. Mr D Dristowator (7) 4 25/41-00 MEARTS ARE WILD (43) T Forstor 9 10 12 __Mir P Hamiley (5) 5 354-P63 MACEDONAS (20) G Thorner 8 10 8 ...___ Mr It Wheaths (7) 6 412/7-00 EMERALD RILEE (2) (7) P Webber 9 10 3 ___ Mr P Scott (7) 7 21/30-00 EMERALD RILEE (2) (7) P Webber 9 10 3 ___ Mir P Scott (7) 6 000 MEREQUEST (37) C Menn 5 10 0 _____ Mir E Jesses (7) 9 5006 SOUTHERN RIDRE (21) R Baker 5 10 0 __Mir A Holdsworth (7) 10 5/15-540 AUTO PRINCESS (23) C Jones 7 10 0 __Mire B Sound (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 10 0 __Mire N Kept (7) 11 300-0P0 SARBARQ (USA) (28) Mrs S Lamyonen 6 1

Minimum weight: 10st. Bisequest Set 12b, Scothern Ridge Set 11b, Alto Princess Set 11b, Subbay Bet 5b, Markers Dove 7st 8b. BETTINR: 3-1. Society Guest, 6-1 Teen Jay, Macedones, 7-1 Zamirsh, 10-1 Hearts Are Wild, Stanquest, 12-1. others

4.30 RESTORATION NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds

5.00 WORCESTER STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) (DIV I) £2,000 added 2m

300-0PO SARBAQ (USA) [28] Mrs S Lanyman 6 10 0 ... Mr 0400-00 MARMERS COVE (12) C Broad 8 10 0 ... Miss M C - 12 declared -

2.50 WEATHERBYS INSURANCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 7f 110yds

3.20 TOTE CREDIT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added 2m 3f 110yds

2.00 Stately Home 2.30 Green Crusader 3.00 Filmsv Truth 3.30 Uluru 4.00 Zamirah 4.30 Olfiver Duckett 5.00 Le Baron 5.30 Charter

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Boxing Match (4.30) Newson Abbot on Saturday.

DISTANCE RUNNERS: Speziels River (5.30) sent 178 triles rom N Lampard's Kingsbridge stable in Devon.

2.00 ROUNDHEAD SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,650 added 2m

0-0415P EL RUBIO (20) (D) (BF) J Spearing 5 11.8 ______ L Wywr 5 11.0 GEREN (RRISADER) (149 Mrs V Ward 5 11.8 _____ J R Kavanangh 41.0 TRADE WARD (149 J O'Shea 5 11.8 _____ Michael Breaman (7) COTTIESMORE Miss A Embarcos 5 11.2 ______ J R Wards (7) 50-ROP EMEST ARMADORN (15) Mrs 5 11.2 ______ J R A Windle (7) 50-ROP EMEST ARMADORN (16) Mrs 5 11.2 ______ J R A Windle (7) 50-ROP EMEST ARMADORN (16) Mrs 5 11.2 ______ J R A Windle (7) 0-10-10 J J Mrs 11.2 ______ J R A FREZWARD (2) Simon Earle 5 11.2 ______ B Michael (7) 0-10-20 RELATINE CHANNE (15) J Fing 7 11.2 ______ G Windle (7) 0-10-20 RELATINE CHANNE (15) J Fing 7 11.2 ______ D Windle (5) 0-10-20 RELATINE CHANNE (15) J Fing 7 11.2 ______ D Windle (5) 0-10-20 RELATINE CHANNE (15) J Mrs M Jones 8 11.2 ______ D Windle (6) 2 COOP4(0 SPANSSH BLAZE (12) Mrs M Jones 8 11.2 ______ D Windle (6) 2 COOP4(0 SPANSSH BLAZE (12) Mrs M Jones 8 11.2 ______ D Bycos 2 CO YOURETTERRELEVET (89) C Brodes 7 11.2 ______ B Badley YOURETTERRELEVET (89) C Brodes 7 11.2 ______ B Badley 00 ROSS SPORTING (37) F Jordan 4 10 10 ... 0 TIME LEADER (18) R Dekin 4 10 10

3.30 JOHN BURNS MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3m

5.10; £2.00, £1.40. DF: £4.60, CSP: 5,20: 1. PUREVALUE (8 Harding) 5-4 fav;

SOUTHWELL 2.00: 1. GREEK NIGHT OUT (D Sweeney) 5.2 tor, 2. Sweetling 7-2; 3. Tempering (3.10) 4.30: 1. FUST II Cutting the control of the control 5-1: 8 res. 10, 1/2. (J L Eyre). Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £1.20, £1.20. DF: £5.30, CSF: 230; 1. JARAAB (S Whoweren 5-4 for: UTTOXETER 2. Headingshift Rock 7-2: 3. Eulogy 3-1. 7 ma. 20, 8. (6 Lowes). Tota: £2.20: £1.20, £1.50 DF. £2.60, CSF: £6.20.

4.30: 1. FOIST (J Quart) 11-8 fax; 2. Per-

2.10: 1. RAY RIVER U River) 20-1; 2. Edward Seymour 10-1: 3. Antarticism 15-2; 4. Busineth 7-1: 1.16 ran, 9-2 for For Out Stirt. Sh. 10; 29-6; 60 Wingrose, Norwich). Totac 551.40; 61.180, 53-70; 52-20, 52-10. DF: 523-4.70; 57-194-40. Titract 51.518-54 for 5223-50; 651.95 of Mr. Britat Sexofura. Debos. 300: 1 CAROL AGAIN (J QUETI) 9-2; 2 August 1. Special Assets 0 (1971) 7-2.

Zdm.8-1, 31, Bistoner Classic 25-1, 12 rat.

Z-2ta-Patiete, 9, 1, 04 Bycroft, Totas: £4.50;
£180, £3.00, £13.00, DF: £23.40, CSF:
£28.46, Tricost: £754.11, True: £210.90

Part sanc. A pool of £267.41 is carried for-

2.51.85 of. Not single Separan, 1800s,
2.40: 1. GOLDWAN (A MCOs) 9-1; 2. Exchiston 25-1: 3. Waylarers Way 5-1 on Sta. 15tan. 5-1 on San Casel Along, Planta, Sh. nd. 7.
(D.Nathison, Temple Quing), Total 58-40, 52-60,
(13.00, 61.90, Dr.; 5472.00, CSF: 5206.25,
[nattificial foliation of the control of th 3.10: 1 MERLIN'S LAD ON A Fragarity 5-6 tav. 2. Just One Canadestro 9-4; 3. Er-lente 8-1, 4 san. 13, 13, U Edwards, Ross-on-Wel Totes £1.70, DF: £2.10, CSF. £2.91. 01-W/e) TODE: 1.1 (J. UF: 2.10. CSF. £2.91.
3.40: 1. HOLY WANDERER G. FOREN
7: 2. Bores 15-2 3. Dreams End 9-4 fev.
7: rain. 1/4, 15. (T George, Stroug). Toda:
64.60: £2.80, £3.40. DF. £15.80. CSF.
£25.72. Tocast £51.14. NR. Nadjail.

4.10: 1. LARRY'S LORD (A McCoy) 7-4 far; Elfant 7-2; 3. Dark Oak 11-2. 5 ran. 9, 11. (P Nacholls, Shepton Mailer). Total: £2 £1.10, £1.80. DF: £5.50. CSF: £7.86. 4.40: 1. COUNTRY STAR (G Bradley) CSF: £8.64. Trac: £26.00. NR: Shalk. 5.10: 1. NESCAF (A McCo) 4-1: 2. Groome Gold 15-2; 3. El Freddie 8-1: 18 ran. 6-4 fav Past Master (5th) 11/2, 7. (C Marm, Lambourn). Tota: £6.30; £2.00, £2.0, £2.10. DP: £18.30. CSP; £31.00. Tota:

RACING RESULTS

kpot: £24,408,40; £27,502,53 carried WETHERBY

2.20: 1. POTTER'S BAY (R Johnson) 2-1 tor; 2. Dawn Mission 4-1; 3. Desert Fight-er 5-2, 13 ran. 13, 8. (D. Nicholson, Tem-ple Guiring). Yote: £3.30; £1.20, £2.60, £1.80. DF: £8.00, CSF: £10.64, Tsin; £5.20. -2.50: 1. ISSVIN (R Gently) 6-1; 2. Popestall 25-1; 2. Newtands-General Evens Stall 8 ran. 14b; 1/a; (Al W Eastedy, Shenfi Hus-ton). Total 55-90; £1-50, £4-50, £1-30. DF: £54,70. CSF: £102-54. Totals: £244.08.

2. Carnetto 11-2: 3. White Willow 8-1. 5 ran. 8, 4: (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Tota: £1.50; £2.40, £1.50. DF: £4.00. CSF: £3.99. NR: Carabai Dancer. 3.50: 1. HOWCLEUCH (B Storey) 9-2; 2. The Bust Class 11-2; 3. Celtic Town 9-2. 7 ras. 2-1 fay Besurepaire (pulled up). 8, 13.

er, Hawsck). Tote: £4.90: £2.20. £2.90. DF: £14.60. CSF: £26.76. Tricest: £106.09. NF: Cool Westher. 4.20: 1. THE MAJOR GENERAL (Capt A Ogden) 5-2; 2. Copper Thistle 11-10 fav; 3. Leadin 12-1. 10 ren. Dist, 1. (G Richards, Greystoke). Tota: £2.90; £1.40, £1.40, £1.40, £1.80. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.50. Trio: £7.10. 4.50: 1 SHENING EDGE (R Garrier) 4-1; are Expense 9-4 fav, 3. Feir And Faincy 8-1. 6 ran. 4, 7. (T Easterby, Malton). Total:

2. Railtsa 7-2; 3. Twoodswood 14-1, 12 ran. 6, 11. (M W Esserby, Sheriff Hutton). Teta: £2.30; £1.70, £1.30, £2.60. DF: 52.90. CSF: 55.55. That £30.10. NRt Be ment Of Risk. nts. nt: £17.60. Quadpot: £14.90. Place & £15.07. Place 5: £12.89.

GOING: Chases - Good; Hurdles - Good To Firm.

Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a one furiong run-in.

E Course is on the A443. Worcester (Foregate St) station 1m.

ADMESSION: Members \$12.50; Tattensils \$9.50; Course 55 (QAPs \$2.50). GAR PARK: Free; picnic area parking \$2.50.

2.30 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

_					
1	<u> </u>	YELLOW PAGES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 7f			
•	~~	D) £5,100 added 2m 7f			
L	O6/UP	BADBURY PRINCE (111) A Chamberlain 10 11 3 Life Julies			
2	PIPH	CAVALERO (SA) H Manners 7 11 3 Nr A Charles-Jone			
	600-32P	CHALLENGER ROW (26) (BF) Ms Lievel 6 11 3 I Jenk			
1		FABULOUS FRANCY Mass A Embatous 8 11 3 Rye			
5	QP5F-5	FAMERIDGE (77) Mrs J Porcan 7 11 3			
3		FLIMESY TRUTH (14) M Weston 10 11 3			
7	1340/20	7657ARBOUS (36) M Campion 10 11 3 Palitie			
3	00006	SOUND PORECAST (7) Mrs S Johnson 8 11.3 Webs			
9	P23	SUPER GOSSEP (19) P Hedger 7 11 3			
0	5/5031-P	SUMA BAY (34) O Bremer 8 11 3			
1	65/5F00	JARRACHI (22) J Spearing 8 10 12 Lodds			
12	10203P	SOUR TRADER (2) N Bathage 7 10 12B Feeto			
		- 12 declared -			
ETTING: 9-2 Super Gossip, 6-1 Jarreah, State Bay, 7-1 Fambridge, 8-					
Challenger Role, Filmsy Truth, Netarious, 10-1 others					

- 22 deciared
BETTPHC: 4-1 Kentford Texts, 9-2 Le Beron, 5-1 Colonel Blazer, 6-1 Paper
Tigress, Dewn Leader, 10-1 deelic Million, 12-1 others 5.30 WORCESTER STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) (DIV II) £2,000 added 2m 41 CARRY THE CARD (15) S Christian 5 11 8 _____D Gallagher 210 CHARTER (28) Major D Chappell 5 11.8 _______ G Upton 010 COME ON PENNY (116) D Candollo 5 11.3 _____ D Fortz (5) 40 BUKEHORN (15) Mrs PS4 5 11 1 DREAM LORD P Nicrols 5 11 1 ______ M Griffins (7) MR WELLOW ! Macker 5 11 1 FINE MR WELLS M Bradstock 5 11 1 FINE MR WELLS M Bradstock 5 11 1 FINE MR WELLS M Bradstock 5 11 1 FINE MR WELLOW S (156) C Brooks 6 11 1R Massey (5) WALSH SPREER MIS | McKe 5 11 1 ...

SOUTH WEST EXPRESS A Carol 4 10 9. 22 declared - BETTING: 6-2 Charter, 3-1 Carry The Card, 6-1 Mywend's, 8-1 Come On Peany, Riches To Rags, Litening Conductor, 10-1 others

-A 142.00 2007 £10.37. Theset: £29.74. 2.30: 1. HANNESLEY HELL (K Fation) 3-1: 2 Date The Yard 12 1: 3. Effectite 6-1 12 tips. 2-1 for Domoor, 124, 3-2. (Mrs.) Remoder). Total £3.90; £1.50, £2.80, £1.50, OP. £38.40, CSF: £43.41. Incast 226.72. Tro: £280.60.
- 4.00: 1. MITEOWN. RAIDER U O'Reibyl
- 4.00: 1. MITEOWN. RAIDER U O'Reibyl
- 4.0. The Fridge Feature 13.2: 3. Born A
- 1.0. The Fridge Feature 12.3: 3. Born A
- 1.0. The Henryl. Tole: £2.10, £1.50, £2.50. Dr: £27.80. CSF: £32.53. Tro:
- 2.60. Dr: £27.80. CSF: £32.53. Tro:
- 2.60. Dr: £27.80. CSF: £32.53. Tro:

A 8500

OLYMPIC GAMES: With 100 days to go before the opening ceremony, the countdown to the Centennial Olympiad has begun in earnest. Rupert Cornwell reports from Atlanta on the glitz and glamour preceding all the razzmatazz

Heat is on for America's Big Chicken Olympic Games, for better or worse, are identified with one man.

n a bleak early April morning, whipped by an icy wind coursing between the downtown skyscrapers, you can hardly believe it. But unless the seasons have reversed themselves irrevocably, in just 100 days the Centennial Olympics will formally get under way in this very place, in a steamy all-enveloping heat that makes the tropics seem tender.

A record 197 competing teams will gather, not in Athens as history suggested, and certainly all of Greece insisted - but here in this surging metropolis of the "New South", where antiquity means life before shopping malls, and the closest you get to a Greek temple is four plexiglass and wire columns on Margaret Mitchell plaza at the corner of Peachtree and Forsyth streets. Ms Mitchell's Gone with the Wind may be the legend of Atlanta. The reality is Newt Gingrich and

'If people don't know it's hot in Atlanta, they haven't been living on this planet'

Martin Luther King, CNN and Coca-Cola, and a refurbished city

arising from a building site.
Indisputably, though, order is emerging from chaos. The red brick Olympic stadium, next to the old Atlanta Braves baseball stadium which it will replace next year, is virtually complete. Huge highways gleam with fresh tarmac. The Centennial Olympic park on the previously derelict site just west of downtown - personalised paving bricks on sale for \$35 (£23.50) apiece - is taking shape, as is the adjoining Coca-Cola theme park where visitors will be able to race against the likes of Linford Christie and Carl Lewis in virtual reality 100 metre finals. The brand new Olympic village is ready too, fully airconditioned on the downtown campus of Georgia Tech University.

Of course there are glitches - "a new worry every day," says Bob



Taking shape: The Clympic Stadium in Atlanta, where the Cente

for the Olympic Games, the body responsible for the whole \$1.7bn (£1.15bn) enterprise. Latest among them is a legal battle between ACOG and the companies who designed the Olympic stadium about unpaid overtime and an alleged design flaw which brought a bank of floodlights crashing down from a 150ft steel tower last year, killing a welding worker.

There are complaints about the myriad construction sites around the city and the even greater disruptions which lie ahead this summer ("Don't blame me, I voted for Athens," proclaims a best-selling bumpersticker). Price-gouging by hotels and people letting rooms for the Games has drawn loud protest, are stuggish. Then there is the awkward shadow of another local notable, Jimmy Carter, never quite forgiven by the international Olympic movement for the US boycott of the 1980 Moscow games.

And, more basically, does Atianta's image measure up? For all the city's clan, the 26th Olympiad means global prime time for the Bubba belt, meaning that the Confederate flag, symbol of slavery and Southern obduracy and still part of Georgia's state flag, will be seen on half a billion TV screens around the world. Nor is everyone as insouciant as Atlanta's former may-or, Maynard Jackson, taking his

while ticket sales for some events downs of Barcelona, "We don't have the cathedral of the Sagrada Familia," he told reporters, "but we do have the Big Chicken.

In other words, those seeking masterpieces of post-modernist relizious architecture must look elsewhere. But for fans of fast food restaurants whose parking lots are graced by 63ft-tall statues of their prime menu item, this is it. Even so, when her big night comes, the southern belle will surely be ready. But she'd better wear a cool dress to the ball.

First and last in any conversation about these games comes the weather - those endless 90-degree, 90 per cent humidity days which add up to leave four years ago from the splen- July in these parts. Not to put too

fine a point on it, Atlanta will be a sweatbath. The organisers have devised a system to keep horses cool, they have shifted the marathon to the kindest hour of 7.05am, and no less than 21 million pounds of ice are already being stockpiled to cool man and beast this summer. But ultimately there is no defeating Mother Nature. "If people don't know it's hot in Atlanta," says Brennan with weary defiance, "they haven't been living on this planet."

It is little known but true that Atlanta considered bidding for the 1984 Games which ultimately went to Los Angeles, setting up an informal group which went to have a look at Montreal, where the 1976 Games had just been held. But potential or- others perhaps in history, these

arena will be put through its pates when the official US Olympic team trials are held there next month. Simultaneously a gigantic marketing exercise gathers speed. Half of Coca-Cola's \$1.3bn (£0.87bn) at-

vertising budget for 1996 will be geared to its home-town Games. Souvenirs run from T-shirts and a suitably irritating children's mascot called lzzy (a character from a mythical land inside the Olympic torch, no less) to immited edition

As 19 July approaches, however, the emphasis is shifting from strategic decisions of the ACOG high

command to more mundane matters, like making sure the 70,000 peo-

ple the Games will employ know

what they are supposed to do, and testing out individual facilities. Most

of these have already been given dry

runs; the showpiece track and field

This is bigger than a World Fair, it's the largest peacetime event in the history of the US'

Fabergé eggs at \$5,000 (£3,350) a throw. At the very top of the line: are 22-seat luxury boxes at the main stadium for every track and field session, plus the opening and closing ceremonies. A few are still available for a mere \$544,500 (£365,500) - food not included.

Photograph: Ross Henderson

ganisers concluded Atlanta was not

ready. So what's the difference be-

tween then and now? A bigger city

and better infrastructure, explains

Atlanta real estate lawyer and one-

time college football star for whom

the 1996 Games have been a holy

mission, and whose life was an un-

broken sequence of 18-hour days to

ensure that mission succeeded.

Payne has business failings, but

lack of drive is not among them. Of

late, wary of a suspect heart, he has

slowed down, no longer arriving at

the office at 3.30am to make Eu-

ropean morning calls to the IOC in

Switzerland. Even so, more than any

Jim Criner, the Claymores'

ob if he can't do it and to be

honest, Gavin wouldn't want it

that way. However, I think he

The unseasonably inclement

Georgia weather offered little

assistance for kickers, but Hast-

ings caught the eye when he con-

verted four of six field goal attempts on a sodden field. A

successful 47-yard kick into a

strong side wind in a pre-season

scrimmage against the Frankfurt

Galaxy served to underline the

kickers, are not always wel-

come on American football

teams. Many break down into

factions, with kickers, who gen-

Then there are his personal qualities. Foreigners, especially

rapid strides he has made.

has every chance.

Payne is ACOG's president, an

Brennan - "and Billy Payne".

At best, these games will show only a small profit but, short of some organisational or terrorist calamity, they cannot but be a boon for the city. By the end of August ACOG will be out of business," Brennan says. "But Atlanta gets a \$500m (£335m) legacy the stadium, the Olympic park, other sports facilities and new university residences. And, by then we're going to be one of the best known places in the world. Less than two dozen cities in the world have done this in 100 years. This is bigger than a World Fair, bigger than the 1994 World Cup, it's the largest peacetime

Endsleigh insurance League

Second Division 12 Brentford v Notis County... 19 Burnley v Peterborough..... 20 Chesterfield v Brasil City . 21 Hull City v Crewe 22 Swansee v Brighton Third Division

GM Vauxball Conference

Beil's Scottish League Premier Division

CELLNET

INTRODUCE

ORANGE.

Third Division 54 Brechn v Llvingston 55 Catedonian Thistle v Cowdenbeath 56 East Stiding v Albon Rovers 57 Queen's Park v Alboath 58 Ross County v Alloa Playing Sunday: Auto Windscreens : nat: Rotherhan v Shrewsbury (at Wer

FOUR DRAWS: Nottingham Forest v Blaci oum, Cambridge United v Donicaster, Wigan Derlington, Brechm v Livingston. FIVE AWAYS: Sheffield Wedness Bradford City, Hearts, St Mirren.

rugby union team, was trying out for the Scottish Claymores of the World League of American Football was greeted in many quarters as nothing more substantial than a publicity stunt.

The Claymores, who strugeled on and off the field during their inaugural campaign last year, would doubtless welcome an athlete of Hastings' standing. with his presence on the sidelines guaranteed to increase an average attendance which failed to top 10,000.

If it is a stunt, then someone should have a quiet word in the 34-year-old full-back's ear, because he has gone about win-ning the job of place-kicker with a single-mindedness and determination which characterised much of his play on the rugby field.

In the spartan environment of the Claymores' training camp in Carrollton, Georgia, he was ust another number. A number with some ceiebrity, perhaps, but the kicker's function is too important to be given away. If Hastings does make the team, he will have earned his place on

Ian Irwin, Britain's boxing

coach, yesterday appealed to

professional promoters to leave

eading amateurs free to com-

John Morris, the secretary of

the Boxing Board of Control,

called for a single organisation

to run both codes of the sport, thus helping amateurs in their

campaign to reach the Games.

Atlanta Olympics is David

Burke, the 21-year-old Liver-pool featherweight who reached

the semi-finals of the European

Championships and then

secured qualification by beating Scott Harrison of Scotland in an

eliminator. Since the 1994

Commonwealth Games, Irwin

has, for example, lost the heavy-weight Danny Williams, the

bantamweight Spencer Oliver

and the light-welterweight Pe-ter Richardson to the paid ranks. All three would have

been candidates to go to At-

The lone British entry for the

pete in the Olympic Games.

gruelling practice session. "I knew I was in for a complete culture shock, but I'm still coming to terms with how difficult it is. Γm on this vertical learn-

ing something new every day." In terms of physical prowess and temperament, an international rugby full-back should be the equal of his American football counterpart, but perceived similarities in kicking technique are misleading. Where in rugby the kicker dictates the tempo of the attempt. on the grid-iron it is a matter of timing and teamwork in the face

ing curve, where I'm discover-

of 11 hostile opponents.
"The biggest adjustment Gavin will face is that he will be the target, the guy they are try-ing to knock senseless," said Mick Luckhurst, a former rugby full-back who enjoyed a sevenyear career kicking for the Atlanta Falcons in the National Football League.

"He's used to doing whatever he wants before a kick, but in American football it is less than a second from when the ball is snapped to when the kicker makes contact. Any longer, and the kick will be blocked."

Scotsman hoping to make the grade in

Hastings ready for his big kick-off

smooth for Hastings, who has enjoyed few favours in the relentless environ of an American football training camp, where his status as a rugby legend has cut little ice. The key has been harnessing his raw potential within a strictly disciplined framework.

"There are three of us in-



American Football

but working with a snapper and holder is a whole new experience for me." head coach, has been impressed by his professionalism and dedication. "Gavin is as competitive as any player I've coached, and since camp started I've seen him improve every single day," he said. "But he won't he given the

The news that Gavin Hastings, would take two weeks out of my Nick Halling on the volved in the process: the snaperally practice alone, left on the ouiside. During his time if we're not working in unison. Georgia, however, Hastings has clearly gained his team-mates' then we have no chance," Hastings said. "The kicking techacceptance and respect. nique is not essentially different,

"He's just brought all of us together," said Paul McCallum, the Claymores' punter. "He has captained his country, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that he has these leadership qualities.

It is still too early to say for certain whether Hastings will be on the sidelines when the Claymores begin their season against the London Monarchs on Sunday. His progress in camp has led the coaching staff to believe that he can handle kick-offs, extra point attempts and short field goals. Longer kicks may be

entrusted to McCallum. The final decision may rest with the player, who has little to gain and much to lose, should he make a fool of himself.

"I want to make a positive contribution to this team and to the World League," he said. "But if that's not possible, then I probably won't do it. You could argue that it would have been easier for me to continue playing international rugby. Kicking an American football looks so simple, but I can assure you it's not."

FRESHLY "I can't believe anyone thinks this is some kind of joke, that I The transition has not been Hastings: Earning respect SQUEEZED Amateurs seek help

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Irwin said: "I think what

after our amateurs better, giving more government support so they won't be as quick to turn professional. Then we could have some discussion with the professional people and say: 'At the moment it's all one way. At the end of the day you will get a better product if can you leave them with us until the end of the Olympic cycle.'

"We should have had people like Naseem Hamed going to the Olympics with us this year. But we have had an everincreasing loss to the professional ranks. We've got one left from the last Commonwealth Games and none left from the

Barcelona Olympics.
"For Barcelona, there were four qualifying tournaments. This time they decided to make the European Championships the only qualifier, which made it very, very tough.

"What made it tougher still was that they seeded any European boxer who reached the quarter-final of last year's World Championships. It was very sad indeed that Burke and Harrison had to box off because we've got to do is perhaps look they are both featherweights.

"That should never happen again. Harrison won a European bronze and he's the only boxer to have won a medal and not go to the Olympics. That

takes some accepting."

Morris replied: "My own
personal belief is that there
should be an umbrella organisation for all boxing in Britain. It should have sufficient powers to sustain a slightly higher age limit for people turning professional [which is 18 at the moment].

"That would give the amateurs that bit more continuity. Nineteen could be a start and that would be well received by the amateurs.

"I don't want it to appear that I am levelling any criticism at the England team, or those who prepared them. In their coach lan Irwin they have a first class and very dedicated man. If they are disappointed, we are disappointed, so what do you do? You see if you can get together to do something about it, and what could we do in the next four years to produce a strong British amateur team for the Sydney Olympics."

Harmon in the clear after neck injury

Rugby League

The Leeds captain, Neil Harmon, has been cleared of any serious damage after being carried off in a neck-brace on Monday, writes Dave Hadfield.

Harmon collapsed after makng a tackle in the defeat by St Helens at Headingley and was taken to hospital for scans on his neck and back, which had gone into spasm. He has now been given a clean bill of health and could be ready for Leeds' next game, at Oldham on Saturday.

The former Wigan and England player. Barrie-Jon Mather, who was carried off playing for the Western Reds in Perth at the weekend, has also been cleared of any spinal injury. However, a broken jaw will deny Paris St-Germain the services of the Australian stand-off, Todd

Brown, for at least six weeks. London Broncos feel they are being singled out for unfair treatment from referees and they are asking the Rugby Foot-

ball League to review the tapes of their first three Super League games. The Broncos' football manager, Robbie Moore, is concerned about the penalty count. "We're asking Greg Mo-Callum, the referees supervisor. to look at the videos of those games and tell us where we are going wrong," he said. "It's something that requires the League's urgent attention, otherwise our players - not to mention our fans - will start to become disillusioned."

The Oceania Cup, designed to bring Fiji. Tonga, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands into regular international competition after their successes in the Centenary World Cup, has been called off for this season. The tournament has been! scrapped because Super League's appeal is to be heard

in court in Australia in May. The Oceania tour of the British Isles, including matches in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, in October, should be

keega ride a the pa

and Peti

Rugby teeters on the brink of a second great split

At Twickenham yesterday, Cliff would surely guess that in Aus-Brittle repeated one of his favourite assertions since the membership of the Rugby Football Union made him executive. With the introducsaid, English rugby was trying to do in months what should re-

:hoo! massan m demolisher

Oifce chief Fig.

alistically take years. This is a reasonable point, though it is extraordinary that it is England alone which has undergone such a paroxysm since the dread day when the International Rugby Board declared rugby open - for business - nearly eight months ago. If you didn't know, you

tralia, New Zealand and South

Africa they just got on with it.
The trouble is that the eight months have in fact turned out chairman of the union's exec- to be three, because it was utive in express defiance of the only once Brittle was constated preference of that very tentiously elected in January that negotiations between the tion of professionalism, he RFU and its major clubs could begin in earnest. Three months to work out how to run and pay for a professional dispensation that, by Brittle's own account, should have taken three or even five years... perhaps it is not so surprising that the English game is tearing itself asun-

> At any rate, it will do if the chubs execute their threat to remove themselves from the

union's jurisdiction. They want autonomously to run and gain the full financial benefit of those competitions in which they participate, whereas the RFU insists its untrammelled control over English rugby and its exclusive rights to television and sponsorship monies are

non-negotiable. As these are among the principal negotiating positions of the clubs - represented these days by the ghastly acronym EPRUC (English Professional Rugby Union Clubs) - they have since yesterday been left with the straight choice of backing down or breaking away. For the latter to

Steve Bale analyses how months of negotiation have led to an impasse in the headlong rush towards professionalism

other significant European union to do likewise.

Whether in England or elsewhere, we should believe it when we see it, though if it did happen the RFU would be hugely embarrassed, not only because of the awful consequences but because the broadcasters who have supposedly pledged their undying fidelity to the union would be shown instead to have been duplicitous in the extreme.

This crisis may seem to have be credible, they would need the equivalent clubs of every awares, but the exactitude of

hindsight demonstrates that it has been a possibility ever since the IRB consigned amateurism to history. The RFU takes great pride in the convoluted, but preciously democratic, way it then set about implementing

the new dispensation. It has

congratulated itself on being the

only big union around the world to have had a commission of investigation and special general meeting of the membership. So keen were the hoi-polloi to talk about the vexed subject that they even had to have a

second special general meeting.

basically to agree to something they had already agreed at the first one. But at least they were given their 15 minutes or seven hours, if you add the meetings together - of fame.

The clubs set out on the road to yesterday's breakdown as soon as the commission had been appointed, talking a good boycott and complaining of inadequate representation for the First Division, which would, after all, be at the sharp end of professionalism. From there the situation deteriorated only slowly, until the orgy of recrimination that has taken place

over the past 10 days.

At first, Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, and Peter Wheeler, then the biggest of the

First Division big shots, had continued an amicable but essentially meaningless dialogue. The sea-change occurred the weekend before last when 19 of EPRUC's 20 members - the exception being London Scottish - boycotted a meeting at Twickenham and were then surprised to find Brittle and Hallett using

less conciliatory language. The ensuing campaign of obloquy against Brittle was both unpleasant and counterproductive. The two sides are left further apart than ever at the very moment - less than a month from the end of the season and the RFU's moratorium on club professionalism when they should have long since come together.

And though the RFU has been at best dilatory, EPRUC made a calamitous diplomatic blunder in expecting Sir John Hall of Newcastle United and Newcastle RFC to have the slightest idea that what makes rugby tick is different from what makes football tick.

It has been reported that when Hall met Brittle last Thursday Hall had to be physically restrained, and even Brittle admits the confrontation was "heated". But now, if ever, is a time for cool heads and rational debate. The Rugby Football Union has called the bluff of its great clubs and waits to see if there will be a second great split 101 years

Keegan's pride amid the pain

Glenn Moore on where this season's individual and team prizes may end up

Judging by Easter Monday's results it is time for Alex Ferguson to find some more mantlepiece space and invest in

a new fridge. Managing the league champions invariably brings the accolade of Manager of the Year and with it a trophy, £7,500 and, since the sponsors are Carling, more lager than Ferguson is ever likely to drink (though he can choose champagne in-

There is another, more recent managerial award, one which is voted for by their peers. This one takes account of resources as well as results and has so far eluded the boss of the title winners. Instead it has rewarded managers who have prospered on more modest means Dave Bassett, Joe Kinnear and Frank Clark.

On that basis Harry Redknapp must stand a good chance this season but so, for a change, should the two men whose teams are duelling for the championship, Ferguson and Kevin Keegan.

No one could suggest Keegan most exciting team to watch in many years. Sadly for Newcastle supporters, it increasingly looks as if Keegan's citation will not, however, be for the manner in which his team won the title, but for the way he handled their losing of it.

There are not many managers who, faced with a second crushing last-minute defeat in five days, would have presented such a gracious face to the public. Many would not have presented any kind of face, especially not while the steam was still rising from his players' backs.

Keegan was candid and stoical after the Blackburn defeat. There are some who would prefer him to be cursing and snarling, but it was crystal clear that defeat hurt, that he was only just keeping his emotions Keegan virtually admitted on Monday night that the title was lost when he began talking about coming second. That may indeed spell the end for Newcastle for, if the great motivator does not believe it is still possible, how can he convince his players?

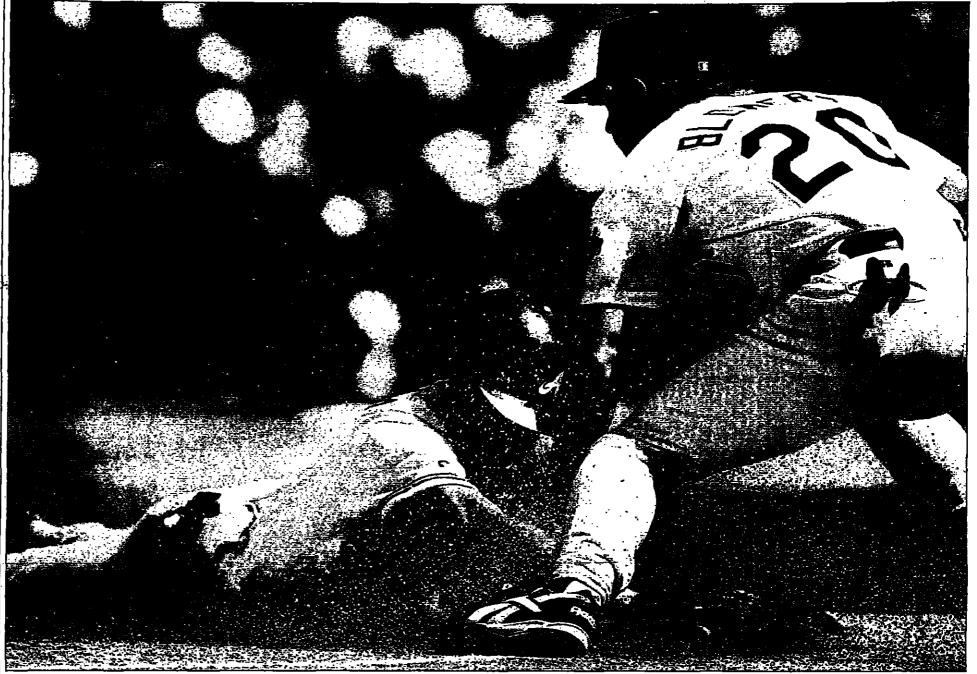
Yet, as Keegan recognised. Newcastle, despite their loss of form, would still be top if it were not for Manchester United's remarkable recent run.

That they have done so well in what is supposed to be a transitional season is a tribute to Ferguson's judgement and manmanagement. He has proved he was right to sell Mark Hughes and Paul Ince, and that he could overcome the departure of Andrei Kanchelskis. He has coaxed a young side to within reach of a significant triumph, for they are only likely to get better.

He has also helped Eric Can-tona reform himself. The Frenchman is making one of those late runs for an award himself, the Footballer of the Year. His goals have made the resources, but he has built the chester United's last six League games, five of which have been won, one drawn. They have included stunning volleys, like the one against Arsenal, and

tap-ins, as against Coventry. Yet, while he has stayed out of trouble since his return, he appears dismissive of the wider responsibilities of his stardom when set against Ruud Gullit's example. The Dutchman has given press and public new insights into the game and, while be will not win a medal this year, think what he could have achieved with Manchester United.

This vote will, however, go to a player who has both made a significant contribution to Manchester United's success and is not scripted by Nike: Peter Schmeichel. If he played for Newcastle, they would still be



Out of reach: Marquis Grissom of the Atlanta Braves fails to reach third base with his dive and is tagged out in the second inning by Mike Blowers of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Hideo Nomo pitched the first shut-out of the season, only giving up three hits, as the Dodgers won their first home game 1-0.

Cup final rehearsal for Rangers and Hearts

Rangers tonight tackle the first threatened Kilmarnock at fit of some more training but we of five remaining fixtures which Parkhead. fit of some more training but we have to be careful with a calf will decide whether they or Celtic have the opportunity of playing in the European Cham-pions' League next season.

Walter Smith's double-chasing side, five points ahead in the title race with five matches to play, travel to Edinburgh to meet Hearts at Tynecastle in a rehearsal of the Tennents Scot-

tish Cup final on 18 May. Celtic, meanwhile, will try to lift themselves after their Old Firm semi-final defeat on Sunday as they meet relegation-

It is another intriguing evening made all the more interesting by yesterday's declaration by both clubs that they will join the end-of-season scramble to sign Gianluca Vialli when the Juventus captain's

contract expires. The Rangers captain Richard Gough, meanwhile, will be asked to decide for himself if he is fit to return for the game at Hearts after a five-week ab-

"Richard has had the bene-

muscle injury," the Ibrox assistant manager, Archie Knox, said. "We will make a decision nearer the time and it will be up to Richard if he feels he is

ready to play. "Hearts are through to the Cup final and they were the last side to beat us when they came to Ibrox and won 3-0 in January. Their players will be playing for Cup final places and have a chance of Europe through the league so there is a lot to play for on both sides.

good position but there is still said: "We know it will be a hard a helluva lot more to be done before we achieve anything.

Beating Celtic last Sunday was a big win for us. If beating your great rivals in a Cup semi doesn't lift you, then nothing will, but we still have to go out and perform today."

While Rangers expect to field a similar side to the one that beat Celtic, Hearts will give a debut to their new £400,000 signing from Raith, Colin Cameron. Gary Locke is doubtful with an ankle injury and their

don't see it as a cup final rehearsal. The final is a long way away right now and we try and finish as high up the after a groin problem.

league as possible." After the hurting, comes the healing. That is the hope for Celtic and their supporters as Kilmarnock visit Parkhead. Manager Tommy Burns vesterday described Sunday's 2-1 take" and spoke of "lying in bed prize to play for."

game against Rangers and we fering supporters."I don't expect any reaction to Sunday other than a positive one. said Burns, who could have have five games in which to John Collins back in his squad

"The Celtic supporters must take great credit for the ovation they gave us at full-time at Hampden and everything we do is for them," he added. "I'm sure the ground will be full for the Kilmarnock game because defeat by Rangers as "hard to they realise there is still a big

Henman and Petchey fall at the first

Persistent rain forced the postponement of yesterday's

heduled first-round matches

at the Hong Kong Open men's

tournament, where Pete Sam-pras and Michael Chang were

due to play the Canadian, Se-

Great Britain plan to spring a surprise on their World Champ-

ionship rivals in their campaign

to regain a place in the top flight. The 23-strong squad are

hopeful of gaining promotion to

Pool A a year after they came

close to relegation from Pool B.

Britain play Latvia in Eind-

hoven today, before facing

Switzerland, Poland, the Neth-

erlands, Japan, Denmark and

then Belarus a week on Friday.

believes their performance last

year, when the event clashed

with the Wembley play-offs,

could work in their favour this

time. "Some of the teams who

Shannon Hope, the captain,

is a normal

Britain's Tim Henman and Mark Petchey were both beaten in the the first round of the Indian Open tournament in

New Delhi yesterday.

Henman, who recently reached the semi-finals of two ATP events, raced to a 6-1 success in the first set against Denmark's Frederik Fetterlein but then lost the next two sets, 6-1 and 6-0. Petchey was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by the top seed from Sweden, Thomas Enqvist.

Parking ticket

sparks rivalry

A parking ticket that was given

to the manager of a Spanish

team by a policeman who sup-

ports their arch-rivals has

caused controversy in Seville.

zo Serra Ferrer, reacted angri-

by to the fine and was detained

for four hours on Saturday by

a policeman who is a season-

ticket holder with their neigh-

Dours, Seville.

The Real Beris coach, Loren-

spectively. Venus Williams, touted as one of the outstanding players of the future, retired with a hip injury in the first set of her first-round match at the Bausch & to win a match and then not be-

Britain bank on surprise

we played last year and who had - the Danes and the Dutch -

big wins over us will be and drawn in Switzerland.

Island, Florida, yesterday. The 197th-ranked 15-year-old, who has rarely been seen on tour since turning professional in October 1994, suffered a right hip joint injury in the sixth game against Germany's Veronika Martinek. Williams retired at 3-5 behind.

"I began to hurt and I was taught not to play when hurt [by my parents]." Williams said. "There's a lot of examples on Lomb championships in Amelia ing able to play for months."

thinking facing Britain will be

another easy game," he said.
"But we are a lot stronger this

year, so the surprise will work

in our favour. Our preparations

this time round could not be

more different than last year.

clashed with Wembley, so some

players, like myself, were flying

home in between games to play

for their clubs. It wasn't the best

way to prepare and we nearly

Britain have shown they can

fell out of Pool B because of it."

be a force in Pool B with a five-

match unbeaten start to their

Olympic qualification pro-

gramme. During that time they

have beaten two of the teams

they face over the next fortnight

"Then, the Championships

French ring changes with four new caps

France have named an experimental line-up, including four uncapped players, for the friendly against Romania in Aurillac a week on Saturday. The hooker Herve Guiraud,

lock Hugues Miorin, flanker Christophe Moni and wing David Venditti are the new men the French selectors hope will revitalise their fortunes after the recent Five Nations disappointment. The French manager, Jo

Maso, said: "We need to try out players who are keen to assert themselves." The coach, Jean-Claude Skrela, added: "It was a sad winter for France. In spring, I want players who are eager to play and enjoy themselves."

Richard Dourthe, who was sidelined at the end of the championship after stamping on England's Ben Clarke, returns at full-back in place of Jean-Luc Sadourny who asked to be rested. Alain Penaud returns as stand-off, forcing Thomas Castaignede on to the bench.

The booker Jean-Claude Gonzalez, the flanker Laurent Cabannes and the stand-off Thierry Lacroix are the main absentees. FRANCE ty Romania, Aurillan, 20 Aprill: R Dou-trer, D Venden, O Campon, S Glas, P Sant-An-dre (rapt), A Penaud, G Accocetiony, C Califono, H Guraud, F Tournaste, O Roumet, H Monn, C s, M. Lévremort, A. Senazz, Replacements tamack, T. Castarghède, P. Carbonneau, ousse, M. de Rougemort, J-L. Jordana.

SPORTING DIGEST **Baseball**

Faseball
Following the on-field death of umpire John McSherry last week, the verteren National League umpire, Eric Gragg, has been granted a temporary leave of absence to try to reduce and stabilise his weight. Gregg, who is in his 19th major league season, is listed as 6ft 4in and 23st 3lb, roughly the same size as McSherry, whose weight was considered a contributing factor to his health problems and fatal heart attack. The Major League also announced that it had appointed Edward Montague as crewichief to replace McSherry.

Hideo Nomo pitched a three-hitter

chief to replace McSherry.

Hideo Nomo priched a three-hitter and outshone Torn Glavine as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Atlanta Braves 1-0 in the Dodgers' home opening game in front of 53,180 fans. The prohing duel was between the the 1995 National League Rookle of the Year and World Series Most Valuable Player. Nomo, who was 13-6 as a rookle last year, recorded the first complete same shutour of the 1996 season and game shutout of the 1996 season and the fourth of his career.

Minnesota.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Colorado 6 Chicago 9;
Los Angeles 1 Atlanta 0; San Diego 9 Florida 2; Pitisburgh 3 Philadejohia 6; Cinicamah
7 New York 6; Houston 6 San Francisco 2;
St. Louis 3 Montreal 4 (10 Innings).

AMÉRICAN LEAGUE; Postponed: Bostor

Baskethall

The Chicago Bults' NBA record 44-game home winning streak ended as the Charlotte Homets beat Chicago 98-97, ending Michael Jordan and his team's quest to become the first in league history to go undefeated at home. Despite the loss, the Bulls need to win four of their final seven games to become the first team in league history to win 70 games in a season.

goures wid SteasOff.
NBA: New York 98 Seattle 108; Philadelphia 82 New Jersey 79; Washington 111 Miami 99; Minnesote 115 Toronto 101; Chicago 97 Charlotte 98; Indiana 97 Adema 95; Utah 91 San Artsono 92; Golden State 102 Dallas 104; UA Cloppers 102 Portland 89. EASTERN CONFERENCE

The start of the Sharjah Cup limited-

Ine start or the Sharjah Cup limited-overs tournament has been put back one day to Friday after the death of a member of the Sharjah ruling family. Un-der the revised funerary for the three-team competition, Pakistan play India, rather than South Africa, in the open-ing match. The final is to be held on 19 April as scheduled.

REVISED TIMERARY (Sharjah Cup): 12 April India v Palestan; 12 April Palestan v South Africa; 14 April India v South Africa; 15 April India v Palestan; 16 April Palestan v South Africa; 17 April India v South Africa; 18 April

The Yugoslav international Budomir

Vujacic, of Sporting Lisbon, underwent knee surgery yesterday and will be out of action for up to six months. SMIRMOFF RIGH LEAGUE Premier Division: Crusaders 1 Bargor O. First Division: Carrick Rangers 1 Larne O. AVON INSURANCE COMBENATION First Division: Arsenal 2 Norwich 0; Charlion 1 Mil-

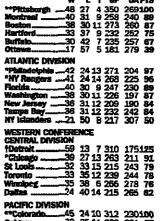
WORLD CUP Conceent first round second-leg (Caribbean Zone): St George's: Grena-da 6 Guyane O (Grenada win 8-1 on aggre-gate and meet Hald in second round). MONDAY'S LATÉ RESULTS: Premier League: Blackburn 2 Newcastle 1. Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Burlon 2 Atherstone 2: Worcester O Halesowen Yown

I. Icis Lengue Second Division: Croydon 0 Barstead 0, Unifond Lengue First Division: Netherfield 2 Lancester City 2. North West Constites Lengue First Division: Blackpool Rovers 0 Newcastle Town 2; St Helens 5 Salford City 1. Bord Geia Lengue of Irreland: Bohernians 0 St Patrick's Athletic 0; Dundelik 0 Sigo Rovers 1. French Lengue: Lens 2 Manann 1 Manan

ice hockey

Ayr have added a Scottish dimension to the Superleague by becoming the several side to sign up for the new competition. The recently-formed club will be based at the west-coast town's Centhe tased at the west-coast lown's cer-trum Arena, which is due to be com-pleted soon. Sheffield, Manchester, Cardiff, Basingstoke, Newcastle and Bracknell have already been confirmed as Superleague members.

EASTERN CONFERENCE NORTHEAST DIVISION W L T GF CAPTS



" directed play-off berth; " Division title, ""Pres-

Pools

SCORE DRAWS (7): 8, 16, 18, 21, 27, 38 49, NO-SCORE DRAWS (7): 17, 24, 28, 33, 34, 46, 47, iDividend forecast is good, with seven score draws, and telephone claims are imited for 23 points).

Stephen Hendry will start as the favourite to win the Embassy World champonship when the tournament starts at The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, on 20 April. The defending champion, chasing a sixth world title, has been priced at 13-8 on by William Hill book-

Although Jessica Foschi, the 15-year-old American swimmer, has been cleared by the American Arbitration Association of all blame over a positive test for steroids, swimming's world governing body. Fina, said yesterday it was launching its own investigation. Foschi, who falled to qualify for this summer's Olympics in Atlanta, tested positive at the LIS national championships in the US national championships in Pasadena, California, last August.

to (it) bt N Marques (Por) 6-3 6-4; [Aut) bt D Rid (Cz Rep) 6-1 7-5; R I (Aut) bt J Arrese (Sp) 6-2 6-2; T ((Sp) bt K Goossens (Bel) 6-4 6-2. BAUSCH AND LORD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Amelia Island, Florida) Women's singles first round. I, Pacificaton (C. Rep) bt A Carisson (Swe) 6-2 7-5; S Hack (Ger) bt A Serrazaneti (It) 6-4 6-0; E Malterova (Rus) bt Stafford (US) 4-6 6-1 7-5; R Diragomar (Rom) bt T Whatlanger Jones (US) 6-2 6-0; V Martinek (Ger) bt V Williams; US) 5-3 first; k Richards-Sturikel (US) bt P Schwatz (Aut) 6-7 6-2 7-6; C Cristea (Rom) bt B Rittner (Ger) 6-3 6-3; C Papadala (Gr) bt L Golarsa (It) 6-2 6-4; A Dechaume, Balleret (Fr) bt M J Gaidano (Arg) 6-1 6-3; A Miller (US) bt F Zuluaga (Col) 6-1 6-4; P bt; Boutars (Cart) bt S Caoc (US) BAUSCH AND LOMB CHAMPIONSHIPS

6-1 6-4; P Hy Boutars (Can) bt S Cacc (US) 6-4 6-1; A Temesvan (Hun) bt S Cecchini (b) 6-4 6-1; A Temesian (Huri) bit S Cecchin (t) 6-2 6-3; N Medicadera (Mir) bit S Farma (ti) 2-6 4-2 mir; L Ghirardi Rubbi (Fri bit G Nelsen (US) 7-6 6-1; P Susiez (Arg) bit Fangl (Chi-na) 7-6 6-2; T Jemenica (hug) bit M Paz (Arg) 7-6 6-2; J Husanova (Slovak) bit N Nowair (Poli 6-3 6-1; B Scheff (Aut) bit S Merer (Ger) 4-6 6-4 6-3; S Piblowski (Fri bit D N Pajconcova (Slovak) 6-1 6-1.

(Slowk) 6-1-6-1.

INDIAN OPEN (New Delhi) Men's singles, first rounds N Kuti (Saet IX J Bjorfman (Saet 6-3-6-4; Fetterean (Den) tri T Humman (GB) 1-6-6-1-6-0; J Van Herch (Bei) fix A Jamyd (Saet 7-6-6-3; J Fleuman (Fr) tri O Ogomodov (Uri) 5-7-6-2-6-3; M Brugarth (Ind) 6-7-6-2-6-3; M Brugarth (Ind) 6-3-6-2: T Z Fettyrat (Saet Ist M Petthey (GB 6-4-6-4; J Stark (US) bt M Norman (Saet 6-1-7-6).

Serra Ferrer could be given ^a prison sentence if found guilty of kicking the officer. He denies the charge. Real Betis are presently 15 places higher than Seville in the Spanish League. and 21 points ahead.

Just for kicks

Busst

facing a

year out

of action

David Busst will face at least a year out of football before he can begin the battle to rebuild his career in the wake of the Old

Football

Brittle dares leading clubs to break away

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

English rugby's governing body yesterday called the bluff of its leading clubs and, in effect. dared them to carry out their threat - eight months after rugby union went open - of breaking away to form a rival, professional organisation which would pay for itself from the broadcasting and sponsorship of its own rebel competitions.

The Rugby Football Union in the person of Cliff Brittle, chairman of its executive committee, justifying himself after a week of personalised vilification – dramatically laid down the law at Twickenham by insisting that it would remain in total charge of administering rugby and the monies coming

into the game. The union's attitude of "thus far, no further" also extends to its plans for next season's competitions. Contrary to the stated wish of the clubs, there will be relegation as originally planned from the First Division of the Courage Championship. This means West Hartlepool are already down, with Gloucester

or Saracens likely to join them. Brittle confirmed that this season's first four First Division clubs would be entered into the European Cup, the remaining six into an Anglo-Welsh competition. The clubs had wanted wider European and crossborder involvement and a reduction from 18 to 11 domestic

reduced to a non-voting share.

matic right of access

an open/professional game.

1 Distribution of TV rights and sponsorship.

ments as and when existing contracts allow.

ipating clubs.

The union's determination to maintain an intermediate representative level between chib and country means there will still be divisional rugby - although not a Divisional Championship - next autumn when London, the Midlands, North and South-West will play Argen-tina, the Junior Springboks and

All of this is anothema to the

Queensland.

clubs, who want to run and finance themselves and now have to put up or shut up. There will be no formal response until after a meeting tomorrow, but last night a spokesman for English Professional Rugby Clubs, the umbrella body for the First and Second Divisions, said: "Given the complete lack of willingness beforehand by Brittle to negotiate it was entirely expected. He is playing a very dangerous

One club official says plans for competitions supported by television are in place, to be disclosed as soon as a breakaway is declared. Yesterday the RFÚ insisted that all broadcasters had pledged to deal only with it, but either way there is great scepticism at Twickenham that clubs will be able to afford the contracts to which they are aiready

committing themselves. "We are talking about the soul of the game," Malcoim Phillips, a former England centre from Lancashire who sits

The Twickenham battle lines

English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC) have submitted

RFU announced an outright refusal to negotiate on three.

12 draft principles to the Rugby Football Union. Yesterday, the

1 That all monies raised from competitions be paid to partic-

2 That payments to representative players be made through EPRUC.

3 That an independent body be established to run the professional

The RFU yesterday announced it would negotiate on eight of

the remaining nine points, the ninth being to note that the

"golden" share in EPRUC originally offered to the RFU had been

2 A success fee for clubs participating in knock-out competi-

3 Conditions to be placed by the union on relevant monies raised.

4 Explore together one contract for players with the union re-

5 Playing of major games at Twickenham, but without auto-

6 Reorganisation and reform of the RFU so as to administer

7 A structured season having regard to international and rep-

8 Explore the possibility of renegotiating sponsorship agree-

taining primacy of availability for representative rugby.

fixtures, with a 12-team First with Brittle on the RFU's nego-Division playing each other tiating panel, said yesterday. "If we get this one wrong, we are into some pretty horrid scenarios. In soccer the clubs dictate to the union. In rugby league they can't meet their wage bills so they sell out to

> "They are two scenarios that could befall us if we are not careful. Neither the union nor the clubs have the money to fund the open game at the moment. People are making promises they cannot keep and people are going to suffer. The players will suffer from broken contracts. The clubs will go

Murdoch.

The clubs' alternative view is that the means of avoiding such an eventuality is for them autonomously to control their own destiny. But any RFU sympathy for this view evaporated when Sir John Hall of Newcastle United - and latterly Newcastle RFC-suggested that the England team would be no more than an optional extra under the new dispensation.

"We are welcoming some wealthy individuals into the game who are used to getting their own way and whose motivations and experience in this game are not the same as ours," Brittle said. To which Don Rutherford, the Geordie who has been the RFU's technical director for 26 years, added: "The arrival of a new man on the block with charismatic qualities seems to have confused the minds of many League One and

Two club officials. The newcomer is Sir John Hall and I suppose it is inevitable that he should wish to compare rugby with soccer; the latter is his main sporting experience. This is a dangerous assumption as England soccer is ranked 23 in the world while England rugby is in the top

.The gap seems unbridgable. We've tried for the last three months to be in a placatory negotiating situation with the Rugby Union," Mike Coley, Gloucester's chief executive, said yesterday. "They have totally ignored the majority of what we've been trying to do and have come up and said: 'We're in charge, do as you're

"It is only right that we have the television rights and spon-sorship monies from those competitions in which we play. If we are going to have a professional game we have to have the money to pay the professional game. No club in England has that money without the television rights and sponsorship. Game on the brink, page 23

BASHFUL PLTAPAT

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PLENIPOTENTIARY

S R M T N A T E



The Great White Shark will

likes of Faldo and Big Jack and Gentle Ben and Little Woosie

- and even Sandy Lyle - will be changing in the champions'

tender this week.

locker room.

Norman eyes new jacket

TIM GLOVER

Every year Greg Norman has a cruel reminder that what is missing from his wardrobe is a green jacket. The winners of the Masters not only get their own bespoke blazer but exclusive use of the champions' locker room, and poor old Norman has to change with the mere mortals. Yesterday he tried to make light of the one that got away.

Norman was asked how many Masters he could have won had he had the rub of the green. "I don't think like that," he said. "I have been lucky in other things. It is not cast in stone that I have to win the Masters. I bet that there are some things that I've done that people who have won the Masters would like to do. I'm still chasing the elusive rainbow. My ca-

reer's not over yet." In fact, Norman firmly believes he will get better with age. "My best golf will come in the forties," he said. "My life gets better the older I get. You learn so much as time goes by." Norman is 41 and he has just played the worst golf of his career, missing two cuts in succession. "I'm not concerned about that," he said. "I didn't enjoy doing it but it might be a blessing in disguise. I don't

worry about the past." Asked what had suddenly gone wrong with his game, Norman replied: "My head. Certain things are meant to happen. They even out in the long run. It was just one of those weird things. It just disappeared." He said that on a scale of 10, he would currently register seven. "Missing those cuts might just tweak my menment generates such a feeling. fortable with these conditions and suprised when someone misses. This is pure golf. No corporate

Td like to think I'm ready for this five in a row, is a sixth alternate boxes, no tented village, perfect conditions."

Norman, the world No 1 and the dominant force in the game for a decade, had won only two major championships, the Open at Turnberry in 1986 and again at Royal St George's, Sandwich, in 1993. Despite his victory he has no soft spot for the Kent links. "I played great golf but it is not my favourite place. There are too many blind shots."

Nick Faldo, once the world No 1 and now down to eighth, has enjoyed the rub of the green at Augusta National, winning the Masters in play-offs in 1989 and 1990. "My desire is always the same with the majors," Faldo said. "I've been planning for this for six months. Experience will pay dividends. You need to know what you're doing, know your routes and know when to play aggressively and defensively. I've been playing nicely for the past couple of months and have just been waiting for something to hap-

pen... or waiting for this week. Both Norman and Faldo believe the greens at Augusta National, traditionally almost as fast as lightning, will be at their quickest than for some years. Faldo reckons that on the stimpmeter, the device that measures the speed of the greens, the reading will be 13. In golf terms that's around Mach 1. "That's just the uphill ones," Faldo said. You've just got to steer the ball into the flat spots, two-putt and get out of there.

Faldo left the European Tour for the greener grass of America 15 months ago. "Week in, week out you're playing in good conditions with great facilities, and the weather helps," Faldo

tal approach. No other tourna- said. "I'm getting more com- two cuts in a row. I'm more week. This will be the severest and then wins a tournament. If test of nerve in golf. It becomes a guy is off his game for five the feel factor. You can't just blast minutes he's off. I'm sure Norin, miss a green and get up and man is going to be a major condown. You can't do that here. If you're nervous and under pressure you've still got to hit great not need reminding that the

> to be putting well." Faldo is having treatment to. a shoulder but says it is not causing him a problem. "I had a. spasm and it took me a couple of days to work it out," he said. "I have warm-up rubs every morning and it's fine. As long as I'm fit and strong I have another seven or eight years with a realistic chance of winning the Masters. I'm sure someone in

shots all the time. And you've got

their fifties could win here. [1] bet Jack believes he can win. Jack Nicklaus, who is 56, won the last of his six Masters titles in 1986 when Norman was ioint runner-up. On Sunday he won the Tradition tournament on the seniors tour in Phoenix. "Jack will be a contender," Faido said, "because he wants to

Faldo also thought that his Ryder Cup partner, Colin Montgomerie, will have a good tournament. "He's playing very well from tee to green and it will come down to how well he putts. I think he's got it. He has the desire and he wants to play well in every tournament he enters. That's a very difficult thing to do. People don't give guys enough credit for playing well week in, week out and being on the leaderboard all the time."

When somebody mentioned Norman and the missed cuts, Faldo said: "Write him off quick. I think that's the end of him, really. He's gone. I'm not suprised that somebody misses

Trafford incident that saw his right leg shattered. The Coventry City defender underwent an initial operation on Monday evening at Hope Hospital, Salford, and faces more surgery today on the hor-rific injury that halted Monday's Premiership match against Manchester United for nine Raymond Ross, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Hope Hospital, was optimistic that Busst would make a full recovery but warned that progre would be slow. "I would say if will take a minimum of three months for the fracture to heat and it could be six," Ross said. "I don't think he will be back in

football before 12 months." Ross has consulted the Highfield Road club's surgeon, John Aldridge, about Bussi and it has been agreed that he will stay in Hope Hospital, where a nail will be inserted in the bone early next week. "He has been under observation and the leg is looking good," added Mr Ross. "He suffered an open fracture of the right tibia and we have applied an external fixator to hold the fracture and cleaned the wound. Although it is a serious injury, I am optimistic the fracture will

heal spontaneously."

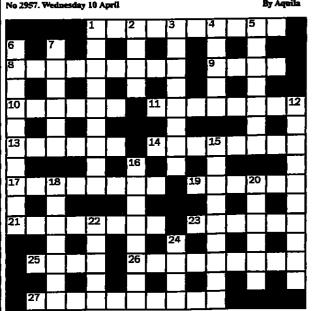
Even if Busst maintains his recovery schedule, he will be approaching his 30th birthday when ready to return a year from now. Coventry, however, have firmly dismissed reports claiming that his career is over. Their secretary, Graham Hover, said yesterday: "He is a strong individual. For people to write him off at this stage is quite ridiculous."

The Liverpool utility player, Steve Harkness, who broke his leg playing against Coventry, acould be back in action sooner than expected. Harkness suffered a double fracture in the: defeat at Highfield Road on Saturday. Original estimates were set at nine months for a full recovery but his manager, Roy Evans, said: "The leg has been pinned and it looks to be a successful job. The signs are that it looks a nice, neat job and it

might not be long." Arsenal are set to finalise the £1.3m signing of the French internatiuonal left-back. Rixente Lizarazu, later this week. The Gunners want Lizarazu to sign a pre-contract which will allow him stay with Bordeaux as they attempt to win the Uefa Cup.

Keegan's pride, page 23

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Theory of photographic fixer-paper (10) In this transition, ran
- across a ground (9) Press Club? (4) 10 Places for putting vegetables (6) 11 Defenders' blunders have ends (3,5)
- 13 Make-up for the complexion? (6) 14 Scope within Circle Line for greenhouse growing fruit (8)

- 17 Archangel's granny? (8)19 Impudence shown to Olympic finalists of France 21 Close call, losing head when running to ground?
- 23 Plan to put church in same resort (6)
 25 Notice Italian gallery open-
- 26 Coming from Rouen. get a train (9) Tiny characters to trap un- 7

wary signatories? (5,6) Suffering a bash near the

- Spanish Steps, reportedly Defile ticket? (4) Difficult duty to entrust to industry (4,4)
- Contemplating having some money in Guernsey? Place apart for tea-blender on foreign soil (7) Big animal out east, under

.

- Attending trial, give evi-Multistorey building in which perry casks are
 - moved about (10) 15 Japanese play-reading that is worthless (2-7)16 Film profound, showing where beauty lies? (4-4)

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18 Flatness of the doldrums? 20 General method in play (6) 22 Impetuous, the Spanish provide accommodation for tourists (5)

24 The case for sewers in the Tuileries? (4)

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DUNCAN HOOPER

When Iain McKinney broke the world record for the longest scoring basketball shot, the 23-year-old university post-graduate who plays for the Sheffield Sharks thought he had beaten one of the sport's greatest names - Magic John-

The 6ft lin McKinney dropped his shot in the basket from 90 feet 63 in at Ponds Forge on Monday and the event sponsors, Sony, claimed he had smashed a record set by John-

by four and a half inches. "I don't think so," the Lakers spokesman, Matthew Fleer, said. If Magic had ever scored from over 90 feet, we'd remember it. Jerry West scored from 60 feet

in a play-off game in the '60s, but that's the longest by a Lakers McKinney will go in the Guinness Book of Records - but ousting Christopher Eddy, a Pennsylvania high school player who set the previous record in 1989, does not have the same buzz as blocking Magic Johnson.

ing from 86 feet to beat Anthony Hylton's 77ft mark at Hemel Hemostead on an earlier stop on Sony's UK tour to promote their NBA computer game.

McKinney said: "It was incredible enough when the first one went in. Team-mate Chris Finch told me to have another go for the world record, but I told him lightning doesn't strike twice."

Unfortunately McKinney has no record of his glory. Incredibly for one of the world's communication giants, Sony did McKinney's shot was hardly a not have so much as a hand-held fluke. With his previous effort he

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